

# Senate Community Affairs References Committee

## **Inquiry into the Universal access to reproductive healthcare** **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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### **Senator Waters to ask the Minister for Health:**

My personal view is that you've made the right call in making it universally applicable, so I applaud your decision there. Given the time constraints, could you please take this on notice for me? Perhaps this is a little premature; maybe your consultations at the moment are working out the answers to these questions. I'm interested in the model of delivery for those funds and whether it will be a grant, or a tweak somehow to reduce and eliminate gap fees. I'm interested in how you will achieve the no out-of-pocket cost commitment. If that hasn't been decided yet, perhaps you could take it on notice and let us know what the process is or otherwise answer that for us.

**Minister Stephen-Smith MLA:** The answer to the Senator's question is as follows:

Decisions have not yet been made on the funding model for these services. It is anticipated that funding will be offered to existing providers to support medical and/or surgical abortions with no out-of-pocket costs for ACT residents.

On 9 February 2023, Women's Health Matters ACT ran an Abortion Access roundtable in collaboration with the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD), to discuss publicly funded abortion services for the ACT and obtain key stakeholder views to inform the implementation of funding. The outcomes of the roundtable are currently being considered. ACTHD is also working with Procurement ACT to ensure any future proposed models meet ACT Government requirements.

Approved for circulation to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Signature:

Date: **21 | 3 | 23**

By the ACT Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA