

Deb Foskey MLA

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Healthcare: why does primary = last?

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey once again raised the issue of primary healthcare at an ACT Budget Estimates hearing today.

“Plans for extending and improving hospital services are always the most important feature of the ACT health budget” Dr Foskey said.

“But one of the chief concerns for Canberra people is difficulty accessing primary healthcare.”

“The Health Minister made it clear today that the proposed community health centre in West Belconnen, for example, is stepping carefully around the issue of supporting a GP, because some doctors would see that as unfair competition.”

“In the meantime people have to wait days to see their usual doctor, or hang round for hours at the hospital to have potentially minor injuries or ailments seen to.”

“Prompt access to high quality primary health care – doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners, midwives, and allied health professionals – is the most cost effective and equitable way to keep our community healthy.”

“The ACT and the Commonwealth Government, the Division of General Practice and healthcare consumers need to sit down together to work out a plan.”

“The most effective way to meet community need is to have all the major decision makers and stakeholders involved in working out how to do it” Dr Foskey said.

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