

# Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGEE

## MEDIA RELEASE

23 March 2022

### ACT Government response to eating disorder petition

**The ACT Government has tabled its response to Dr Marisa Paterson MLA's petition calling for improved support services for people in the ACT experiencing an eating disorder; as well as providing an updated Government Position Statement about eating disorder support services in the ACT.**

Dr Paterson's petition, tabled in the Assembly in November 2021, called for the ACT Government to provide an update on the actions that have been taken to improve access to the Eating Disorders Program, to review the demand for eating disorder support services to ensure appropriate resourcing, and undertake a refresh of the Position Statement. The petition was signed by 714 Canberrans.

Of note in the Government's updated Position Statement, Dr Paterson said it is encouraging to see the Territory Wide Model of Care. "The model outlines a stepped approach to eating disorder support services, providing flexibility across the continuum of support from early engagement to ongoing treatment. It recognises the complexity of eating disorders and that they are both a medical and mental illness.

"The Position Statement identifies that all future services are to be considered within this context.

"The Eating Disorders Clinical Hub, launched by the ATC Government in January this year, is the central referral point and pathway for the range of services available across each of these 'steps'" Dr Paterson said.

Dr Paterson further states: "I'm energised to see this response and I will continue to strongly advocate to ensure appropriate support services are provided for individuals and their families who are suffering from an eating disorder in the ACT.

"I am aware of how traumatic and devastating eating disorders are and I thank again the many individuals and family members who have been – and continue to be – incredibly brave in sharing their stories, and those of their loved ones, to ensure positive outcomes in our community".

Dr Paterson will keep the community updated on the progress of all matters related to eating disorder support services in the ACT through her [website](#), [e-newsletter](#) and [Facebook profile](#).

The full response is available: <https://www.marisapaterson.com.au/issues/eating-disorders/progress-and-updates-eating-disorder-support-services/>

Statement ends

#### Media contact/s:

Anna Gurnhill, Office of Dr Marisa Paterson MLA M 0400 843 858 Email [AnnaG.Gurnhill@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:AnnaG.Gurnhill@parliament.act.gov.au)