

Mr Clinton Howe MLA
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee

via email: LA.PAC@nt.gov.au

Dear Mr Howe

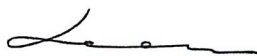
Re: Inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Record System

Thank you for the Public Accounts Committee's request to clarify the approved Acacia program budget and the funding components referenced during the Inquiry.

Table 1 provides responses to the questions raised to clarify the total funding allocation.

We remain willing to provide any further information or clarification that may assist the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Watson
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Department of Corporate and Digital
Development

13 July 2026



Susan Bowden
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Department of Health

14 July 2026

TABLE 1

Inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Records System – total program budget	
Public Accounts Committee Question	Response – Department of Corporate and Digital Development and Department of Health
(a) Confirm the accuracy of the total program budget of \$335 million.	Accuracy confirmed; the total program budget is \$335 million.
(b) Confirm the accuracy of each of the figures in points 1 through 6.	
1. \$10 million in Budget 2015–16 for planning, analysis, market testing and foundation programs (Joint Submission of the Department of Health and the Department of Corporate and Digital Development, April 2025 p. 16)	Accuracy confirmed; \$10 million in Budget 2015–16.
2. \$259 million in Budget 2017–18 to fully fund the program (Joint Submission of the Department of Health and the Department of Corporate and Digital Development, April 2025 p. 16).	Accuracy confirmed; \$259 million in Budget 2017–18.
3. \$18 million funding folded in from the Electronic Medication Management project. It was specified that this funding was not part of the original budget of \$259 million but is now a part of the \$335 million total program budget (Responses to Written Questions, April 2026, p. 2).	Accuracy confirmed; \$18 million funding is for the Electronic Medication Management project. Confirmed the \$18 million is included in the overall budget of \$259 million for 2017–18 (item 2). Acknowledging the response to written question 8 (April 2026, p. 2) had incorrectly inferred it was not part of the \$259 million budget. <i>“\$18 million in funding for Electronic Medications Management was not included in the original budget but is now included in the \$335 million figure”</i>

Inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Records System – total program budget	
Public Accounts Committee Question	Response – Department of Corporate and Digital Development and Department of Health
4. \$63.4 million reprioritisation in 2022 from NT Health and DCDD internal budgets (Joint Submission of the Department of Health and the Department of Corporate and Digital Development, April 2025 p. 39). NT Health contributions were from bottom-line efficiencies (Department of Health Answers to Questions on Notice, March 2026, p. 2). DCDD contributions were from CARE underspend and leased property portfolio indexation rates savings (Public Briefing, February 2026, p. 16).	Accuracy confirmed; \$63.4 million 2022 budget reprioritisation.
5. \$6 million reprioritisation in 2023 away from the Acacia program to SerPro (Department of Corporate and Digital Development Answers to Questions on Notice, March 2026, p. 9).	Accuracy confirmed; \$6 million 2023 budget reprioritisation.
6. \$12 million in Budget 2025-26 split across two years (Supplementary Submission to Inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Record System, January 2026, p.4).	Accuracy confirmed; \$12 million in Budget 2025-26.
(c) Explain whether each of the figures in points 1 through 6 are considered to contribute to the overall program budget.	Points 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 form part of the funding and reprioritisation decisions associated with the Acacia program budget. Point 3 should not be included again when reconciling the approved budget, as it has already been accounted for within the overall program budget.
(d) Explain any differences between the sum of individual costings and the total program budget.	The \$21.4 million difference between the Public Accounts Committee's calculated total of \$356.4 million and the approved program budget of \$335 million is explained by: • \$18 million for Electronic Medication Management funding, which is already included within the approved funding total; and • \$3.4 million in repurposed digital contingency funding, which is not included in the approved Acacia program budget.