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**Title:**

Press statement by the Minister for Health: Increased hospital charges in the ACT

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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH, DR D.N. EVERINGHAM

INCREASED HOSPITAL CHARGES IN THE A.C.T.

In-patient charges at Canberra's two public hospitals will be increased tomorrow (September 3, 1974).

The Minister for Health, Dr D.N. Everingham, said today that the higher charges had been made necessary because of higher costs associated with hospital operation.

From tomorrow the charges at Canberra's public hospitals will rise from \$15 a day to \$22.50 a day for standard ward treatment and from \$26.30 a day to \$39 a day for private ward treatment.

Enforceable claim charges (compensation or damages claims) will rise from \$30 a day to \$50 a day.

Dr Everingham said that New South Wales hospitals had increased their charges from August 1 and the increased costs which brought about these higher charges equally affected Canberra hospitals.

For example, on 1973-74 figures, the average cost per bed per day at Canberra Hospital was approximately \$50.00, excluding capital costs, and this figure will be higher in the current financial year.

Dr Everingham said the rise would be the first since August 1971.

He said for health insurance purposes the A.C.T. was considered to be part of New South Wales and adjustments to hospital benefits in that State would also apply to insured patients in the A.C.T.

CANBERRA A.C.T.

2 September 1974

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