

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Establishment of the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission

Senator: Patrick

Question reference number: 0097

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 19 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Did the proposal of the NCCC originate within the PMO or the PM&C or another agency?
2. On what date did PM&C first hear of or discuss the NCCC?
3. Did PM&C provide PMO with advice on
 - a. Capacity of the APS to coordinate the COVID19 recovery?
 - b. The need for the NCCC in light of existing public service capacities?
 - c. Ways the NCCC could be set up?
 - d. A shortlist of potential commissioners including a Chair and did that shortlist include Nev Power?
4. If so for any of the above, please give dates of when this occurred.
5. Who set the 'terms of reference' for the NCCC?
 - a. When were they set?

Answer:

1. The proposal for the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission was developed in the Prime Minister's Office.
2. 19 March 2020.
- 3a. No.
- 3b. No.
- 3c. Yes.
- 3d. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) did not provide a shortlist.
4. N/A
5. The terms of reference were drafted by PM&C. The Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, agreed to publicly release the Commission's Terms of Reference on 30 April 2020.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Process in considering and advancing initiatives for the charities sector

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: 0117

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 19 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Please provide the Committee with an update on the NCCC Charities and NFP subgroup's progress in considering and advancing any initiatives for the charities sector, including details of any recommendations under active consideration.

Answer:

The not-for-profit working group meets on a weekly basis to discuss how to lessen the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable people in society and the sector that supports them. The Group is chaired by Tony Stuart, CEO of UNICEF Australia and Chair of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Advisory Board.

Mr Stuart presented to the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (the Commission) Board on 3 June 2020 including providing advice on the increased demands on, and reduced donations to, the not-for-profit sector. He has also raised with the Commission the need for harmonisation of online fundraising regulations; encouraging and unlocking donations through a proposed 150 per cent tax deductibility initiative; facilitating volunteering and employment in the sector; and increasing the digital capability of the sector.

The group are consulting with not-for-profit stakeholders to gain an accurate picture of the impact across the sector, and on vulnerable Australians and how responses can be better tailored to meet the sector's changing needs.

The Commission will draw on the working group's recommendations to provide advice to Government on how to keep this important sector viable and maintain its critical contribution to the Australian community.