

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Written

008 – 20 August 2021

Topic: Vaccines - negotiations

Senator Katy Gallagher

Question

1. What was the Department's involvement in negotiating the purchase of 1,000,000 doses of COVID-19 (Pfizer) vaccine from the Republic of Poland?
2. When did negotiations commence?
3. Which party initiated the negotiations?
4. What is the total cost of the purchase of vaccines from the Republic of Poland?
5. Were any non-financial commitments made by the Commonwealth as a part of the vaccine purchase?
6. Has the Department facilitated negotiations with any other countries to purchase COVID-19 vaccine? If so -
 - a. Which countries has the Department facilitated negotiations with?
7. What was the Department's involvement, if any, in accessing 500,000 COVAX facility doses of the Pfizer vaccine?

Answer

1. The Department worked closely with the Department of Health to negotiate the purchase and delivery of the vaccines. The Department of Health is the purchasing authority.
2. 12 July 2021
3. Australia
4. Transferred to Department of Health for response.
5. Transferred to Department of Health for response.
6. Formal negotiations have been held with the Government of Poland. The Australian Government continues to work with our close partners to seek access to surplus vaccine supplies where these meet the needs of our domestic rollout.
7. DFAT had no role in the decision, it was a matter for the Department of Health.