

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Department of Health**

**Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**

**Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

**26 May 2020**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000304**

**Question Subject:** Success of the retention bonus to aged care workers

**Type of Question:** Written

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Question:**

How are you measuring the success of the retention bonus to aged care workers in residential and home care?

**Answer:**

Changes in the workforce for eligible workers will be measured to determine the impact of the retention bonus as one of the indicators of success, noting that other factors can affect staffing levels.

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**Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

**26 May 2020**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000340**

**Question Subject:** ASPEN Medical to supply regional and remote aged care workforce

**Type of Question:** Written

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Question:**

I understand the Government has contracted ASPEN Medical to supply regional and remote aged care workforce. Has anyone from ASPEN Medical been deployed to regional and remote facilities? If so, to which facilities?

**Answer:**

Aspen Medical Emergency Response Teams have been deployed to five aged care services in regional Australia (based on the ABS Geography Standard Remoteness Structure).

The Department of Health would prefer not to name the facilities due to the impact public disclosure has on services, their staff and residents due to media exposure as well as their continued ability to operate. We want to encourage service providers to proactively report cases to the Department.