



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

Senator Katy Gallagher  
Chair, Senate Select Committee on COVID-19  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Senator Gallagher

I wish to correct evidence provided to the Committee during its examination of the Department of Health (page 8 of the Proof Hansard refer).

In answering a question from yourself, I said that each of the 97 residential aged-care facilities that had a current outbreak (as at 4 August 2020), had received a visit from an Aspen Medical clinical first responder.

The response was accurate based on the information available to me at that time. It has since been brought to my attention that, in some instances of instances, clinical first responders were not required to attend.

For example, Aspen Medical's assistance was declined for some services where the aged care facility was state-run and co-located with a hospital, with the appropriate clinical expertise on hand to manage the outbreak. In addition, there have been instances where the local health authority have advised Aspen that they were not required to attend a facility. More recently, on some occasions, AUSMAT has attended facilities in place of an Aspen clinical first responder.

In all other instances, where services have had a reported and confirmed COVID-19 positive case in residents and / or staff, an Aspen clinical first responder has been deployed.

Yours sincerely

**Amy Laffan**  
A/g First Assistant Secretary  
Aged Care Reform and Compliance Division  
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Date: 20 August 2020