

**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: IQ20-000301**

**Question Subject:** Sexual and Reproductive Health

**Type of Question:** Written

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Question:**

Has any analysis been undertaken regarding the availability / continuity of sexual and reproductive healthcare in rural and regional areas during the pandemic?

**Answer:**

- Medicare rebates are available for sexual health services provided by eligible medical providers in any location and include GP and sexual health specialist services.
- The comprehensive expansion of primary healthcare services including telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed people in rural and regional areas greater access to health care services, including for sexual and reproductive health.
- The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is receiving \$327 million over four years to 30 June 2022 to deliver emergency primary aeromedical evacuations, GP and nurse clinics, medical chests, remote (telephone) consultations, and dental and mental health outreach services in areas beyond the normal medical infrastructure and in locations of market failure.
- The RFDS has continued to deliver GP and nurse clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic, which would include sexual and reproductive healthcare depending on the needs of the patients presenting at the clinics.

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**Department of Health**

**Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**

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

**26 May 2020**

**PDR Number:** IQ20-000323

**Question Subject:** Financial support - Marie Stopes

**Type of Question:** Written

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Question:**

Marie Stopes has reported significant increases in travel expenses to provide services in rural and regional areas during the pandemic (due to travel restrictions and fewer commercial flight options). Has the Department offered any financial support to assist the service to meet these additional costs?

**Answer:**

No, the Department has not provided financial support to Marie Stopes to meet additional travel costs for providing services in rural and regional areas.