

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Inquiry into Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Spoken Question on Notice, 28 January 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000002

Date on when advice to Government changed in terms of achieving the supply of vaccines to target of four million people

Spoken

Hansard Page number: 20

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

CHAIR: You can't give me an exact date on when that advice to the government changed, in terms of achieving the four million target?

Ms Edwards: I could take on notice to see if there was any more certainty, but there are very regular, daily updates through our minister and across the whole of government.

CHAIR: I'm happy to take a day when that happened.

Ms Edwards: I'd have to take it on notice.

Answer:

The four million target refers to the number of doses. The commencement, timing and scale of the rollout has depended upon availability of vaccine. Advice on the potential availability and the uncertainty of international supply has been provided regularly since the advanced purchase agreements were entered into. Significant supply issues became apparent in January and February 2021.

At 10 March 2021, Australia has received 599,040 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 714,400 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. In addition, domestic AstraZeneca production via CSL of 50 million doses is likely to be ready for supply from late March.