

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Department of Health**

**Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**

**Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**6 May 2020**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000185**

**Question Subject:** Minister meeting with service providers and aged care stakeholders

**Type of Questions:** Written

**Questioner:** Katy Gallagher

**Question:**

Please provide a list including dates and times that the Minister has met with service providers and aged care stakeholders in the lead up to the COVID-19 pandemic and during the COVID-19 pandemic?

For each of the meetings with aged care stakeholders please provide a list of each organisation that attended. For each of the meetings please confirm which meetings were attended by the Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, the Minister for Health, the Prime Minister or Chief Medical Officer

**Answer:**

The Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, has met frequently with many aged care stakeholders and service providers in the lead up to and during the COVID-19 pandemic, including via information phone calls and other conversations. In addition, the Department is aware of the following formal meetings between the Minister and stakeholders as at 11 May 2020:

**Aged Care COVID-19 Preparedness Forum**

Date and Time: 6 March 2020 – 12.30pm – 3.00pm

Minister Colbeck and the Chief Medical Officer, Prof Brendan Murphy hosted the Forum.

Refer Attachment 1 for invited organisations.

### **In Home and Community Aged Care COVID-19 Preparedness Webinar**

Date and Time: 13 March 2020 – 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Minister Colbeck hosted the Forum.

Refer [Attachment 2](#) for invited organisations.

### **Aged Care Peak COVID-19 Teleconferences (as at 11 May)**

Dates and Times:

- 18 March 2020 – 1.00pm – 2.00pm
- 20 March 2020 – 11.00am – 12.00pm
- 24 March 2020 – 2.00pm – 3.00pm
- 26 March 2020 – 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- 31 March 2020 – 12.00pm – 1.00pm
- 2 April 2020 – 3.00pm – 4.00pm
- 7 April 2020 – 3.00pm – 4.00pm
- 9 April 2020 – 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- 15 April 2020 – 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- 21 April 2020 – 10.00am – 11.00am
- 23 April 2020 – 1.00pm – 2.00pm
- 28 April 2020 – 11.30am – 12.30pm
- 5 May 2020 – 11.00am – 12.00pm
- 11 May 2020 – 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Refer [Attachment 3](#) for invited organisations. Participants include peak organisations and representatives of aged care providers who have managed COVID-19 outbreaks.

### **Meeting with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)**

Date and Time: 3 April 2020 – 2.00pm – 2.30pm

Minister Colbeck attended the meeting.

Stakeholders present: Annie Butler, Federal Secretary, ANMF.

### **Teleconference with Professor Joseph Ibrahim**

Date and Time: 6 April 2020

Minister Colbeck attended the teleconference.

Stakeholders present: Professor Joseph Ibrahim, Monash University and Janet Anderson PSM, Commissioner, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

### **Home Care Providers Teleconference**

Date and Time: 9 April 2020 – 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Minister Colbeck attended the teleconference.

Refer [Attachment 4](#) for invited organisations.

### **Meeting with Leading Aged Care Services .Australia LTD (LASA)**

Date and Time: 14 April 2020 / 12.00pm

Minister Colbeck attended the meeting.

Stakeholders: Sean Rooney, Chief Executive Officer, LASA.

### **Aged Care Sector Committee Meeting**

Date and Time: 17 April 2020 – 12.30pm – 2.30pm  
Minister Colbeck attended the Aged Care Sector Committee Meeting from approx. 1.00pm – 2.00pm.  
Refer [Attachment 5](#) for invited organisations.

### **Meeting with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)**

Date and Time: 20 April 2020 – 3.30pm – 4.00pm  
Minister Colbeck attended the meeting.  
Stakeholders present: Annie Butler, Federal Secretary, ANMF.

### **Meeting on impact of COVID-19 on people living with Dementia with Dementia Australia**

Date and Time: 21 April 2020 – 4.00pm  
Minister Colbeck was in attendance.  
Stakeholders present: Dementia Australia.

### **Webinar with Peak Bodies on Residential Care Visitor Restrictions**

Date and Time: 24 April 2020 – 4.30pm - 6.00pm  
Minister Colbeck and the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Brendan Murphy attended the webinar.  
The webinar was facilitated by Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) and Leading Age Services Australia (LASA).  
Invited organisations: Provider organisations from ACSA, LASA, Catholic Health Australia, Baptist Care Australia, Aged Care Guild, Uniting Care.

### **Teleconference on Visitation Code**

Date and Time: 28 April 2020 – 10.30am  
Minister Colbeck attended the teleconference.  
Invited organisations: COTA, ACSA, Dementia Australia, Catholic Health Australia, UnitingCare, LASA, BaptistCare, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, Anglicare, National Seniors Australia, OPAN.

### **Meeting with Leading Aged Care Services Australia LTD (LASA)**

Date and Time: 29 April 2020  
Minister Colbeck attended the meeting.  
Stakeholders: Sean Rooney, Chief Executive Officer, LASA.

### **Meeting with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)**

Date and Time: 4 May 2020  
Minister Colbeck attended the meeting.  
Stakeholders present: Annie Butler, Federal Secretary, ANMF.

### **Meeting with Every Age Counts**

Date and Time: 6 May 2020  
Minister Colbeck attended the meeting.  
Stakeholders present: Kirsty Nowland, Executive Director and Robert Tickner AO, Chair, Every Age Counts.

**Meeting with the Property Council and Retirement Living Council**

Date and Time: 8 May 2020

Minister Colbeck attended the meeting.

Stakeholders: Richard Lindsay, Government Relations, Property Council; Ben Myers, Executive Director, Retirement Living Council; and Marie-Louise MacDonald, Chair of the Retirement Living Council.

**Meeting with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)**

Date and Time: 11 May 2020

Minister Colbeck attended the meeting.

Stakeholders present: Annie Butler, Federal Secretary, ANMF.

**Note: With the exception of the Aged Care Sector Committee, the Department did not record organisations that attended, only those that had been invited.**

## Attachment 1

### MEETING: Aged Care COVID-19 Preparedness Forum

**DATE AND TIME:** Friday 6 March 2020 - 12.30pm – 3.00pm

**PARTICIPANTS** – attended by Minister Colbeck and the Chief Medical Officer

ACT Health	Goodwin Aged Care
Aged and Community Services Australia	HammondCare
Aged Care Guild	Health Direct
Aged Care Industry Association	Health Services Union
Aged Care Quality and Safety Advisory Council	Juniper
Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission	Leading Age Services Australia
Austin Health	National Disability Insurance Scheme Commission
Australian College of Nursing	National Seniors Australia
Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine	Older Persons Advocacy Network
Australian Medical Association	Opal Aged Care
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation	Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
Australian Primary Healthcare Nurses Association	Presbyterian Aged Care
BaptistCare	Queensland Health
Brisbane North Primary Health Network	Remote Accord Aged Care
Bupa	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Catholic Health Australia	Rural Doctors Association of Australia
COTA Australia	United Workers Union
Dementia Australia	UnitingCare
Emerald Medical Group	Victorian Department of Health and Human Services
Estia Health	WA Primary Health Alliance
GenWise	

**MEETING:** In Home and Community Aged Care COVID-19 Preparedness Webinar

**DATE AND TIME:** Friday 13 March 2020 - 2.30pm – 4.30pm

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr Chloe Ryan, Medical Officer, Department of Health

**INVITED PARTICIPANTS**

ACT Health	Community Options Australia
Aged and Community Care Officials	COTA Australia
Aged and Community Services Australia	Country Home Services
Aged Care Guild	Darling Downs Health
Aged Care Industry Association	Dementia Australia
Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission	Department of Health Tasmania
Aged Care Quality and Safety Advisory Council	Department of Health, WA
Aged Care Sector Committee	Department of Human Services, South Australia
Anglicare Australia	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Anglicare Southern Queensland	Department of Social Services
Anglican Community Services	Department of Veterans Affairs
Argent Nominees Pty Ltd.	Eastern Health
Austin Health	Estia Health
Austin Organisation	Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
Australian College of Nursing	Goodwin Aged Care Services
Australian Community Transport Association	Goulburn Valley Health
Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association	HammondCare
Australian Meals on Wheels Association	Health Services Union
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation	Helping Hand Aged Care
Australian Red Cross	Hunter New England LHD
Australian Unity Home Care Service Pty Ltd.	Interchange Australia
Australasian Services Care Network	Integratedliving Australia Ltd.
Baptcare Ltd	Jewish Care
BaptistCare NSW & ACT	Juniper
Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network	Just Better Care Gold Coast
Bolton Clarke	KinCare Health Services Pty Ltd.
Blue Care	Leading Age Services Australia
Brookfield	Link Community Transport
Bundaleer Care Services	Little Company of Mary Health Care Ltd
Bupa Aged Care Australia	Mable
Byron Shire Respite Service Inc	Meals on Wheels NSW Ltd
Calvary Aged Care	Mercy Aged and Community Care Ltd
Care Assessment Consultants	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Care Connect Ltd.	National Aged Care Alliance / COTA
Carers Australia	National Disability Insurance Scheme Commission
Catholic Health Australia	National Seniors Australia

Nepean Hospital	Southern NSW LHD
North Coast Primary Health Network	Speech Pathology Australia
North and West Remote Health	St Andrews Village
Northern Grampians shire	Tasmanian Health Service
NSW Home Support Services	The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane
NSW Health	The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW)
Occupational Therapy Australia	The University of Tasmania
Older Persons Advocacy Network	Tweed Shire Council
OPAL	United Workers Union
Ozcare	UnitingCare Australia
Presbyterian Aged Care Network	Uniting Agewell Limited
Queensland Health	UnitingCare Victoria/Tasmania
Queensland Meals on Wheels Ltd	Victorian Department of Health and Human Services
Regal Home Health	Victorian Healthcare Association
Remote Accord Aged Care	Villa Maria Catholic Homes (VMCH)
Resthaven Inc.	Viostream
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Aged care specialist	VT Uniting
Royal District Nursing Service Limited	West Coast Home Care
Royal Society for the Blind	War Memorial Hospital (NSW)
RSL Care RDNS Limited	Western Sydney LHD

**MEETING: COVID Aged Care Peak COVID-19 teleconferences****INVITED PARTICIPANTS**

Aged and Community Services Australia	Department of Health
Aged Care Guild	Department of Industry
Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission	Estia Health
Anglicare	Leading Age Services Australia
Baptist Care	Mercy Health
Catholic Health Australia	National Seniors
Council on the Ageing	National Uniting Care
Dementia Australia	Older Persons Advocacy Network
	Opal Aged Care



**MEETING:** Home Care Providers COVID-19 Teleconference

**DATE AND TIME:** Thursday, 9 April 2020 - 1.30pm – 2.30pm

**INVITED PARTICIPANTS**

Aged and Community Services Australia
Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner
Australian Unity Home Care Service Pty
Baptist Care Australia
Baptist Care NSW & ACT
Baptcare Ltd
Blue Care
HammondCare
Integrated Living Australia Ltd
KinCare Health Services Pty Ltd
Leading Age Services Australia
Mercy Aged and Community Care Ltd
Silver Chain Group Limited
The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW)
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Queensland)
Uniting Care Australia
Department of Health

**MEETING: Aged Care Sector Committee****DATE AND TIME:** Friday 17 April 2020 - 12.30pm – 2.30pm**IN ATTENDANCE:** Minister Colbeck**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Aged Care Sector Committee 17 April 2020 (Teleconference)</b>	
<b>Meeting Attendees</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Mr David Tune AO PSM	Independent Chair
Mr Nicholas Brown (proxy)	A/g Chief Executive Officer, Aged Care Guild
Mr Mike Callaghan AM PSM	Chair, Aged Care Financing Authority
Ms Andrea Coote	Chair, Aged Care Quality and Safety Advisory Council
Ms Jody Currie	Representative, National Advisory Group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care
Ms Samantha Edmonds	Managing Director, Ageing with Pride
Mr Tim Hicks (proxy)	Policy and Advocacy Manager, Leading Age Services Australia
Dr Stephen Judd	Chief Executive Officer, HammondCare
Ms Claerwen Little	National Director, UnitingCare Australia
Mr Michael Lye	Deputy Secretary, Ageing and Aged Care Group
Mr Nick Mersiades	Director, Catholic Health Australia
Ms Sophia Petrov	Director, Aged Care Reform Secretariat, National Aged Care Alliance
Professor John Pollaers OAM	Executive Chairman, Leef Independent Living Solutions
Mr Graeme Prior	Chief Executive Officer, Hall and Prior Health and Aged Care Group
Ms Julie Reeves	Federal Professional Officer, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Ms Patricia Sparrow	Chief Executive Officer, Aged and Community Services Australia
Mr Ian Yates AM	Chief Executive Officer, COTA Australia

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**Department of Health**

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**6 May 2020**

**PDR Number:** IQ20-000187

**Question Subject:** Source of flu vaccines prior to 1 May 2020

**Type of Questions:** Written

**Questioner:** Katy Gallagher

**Question:** How many PHNs have had to source vaccines and supply qualified vaccine administrators? Please provide this information prior to 1 May, 2020 and after 1 May, 2020.

**Answer:**

Following the recommendations of AHPPC and release of directions by states and territories, some Commonwealth funded aged care providers raised concerns with the Department about their ability to access influenza vaccinations.

The Department engaged all 31 PHNs to undertake a co-ordination activity to support residential aged care facilities obtain supply of the influenza vaccine for staff (primarily) and residents, where the aged care facility indicated that they were not able to source sufficient vaccine through private market supply.

PHNs contacted each residential aged care facility in their region and undertake a needs assessment, in terms of vaccine supply and appropriately qualified vaccine administrators.

The Department identified Team Medical as the most appropriate national wholesaler to work with PHNs and manage the distribution of vaccines for the residential aged care facilities that had an identified need.

As at 29 April 2020, approximately 35,000 vaccines were requested by 441 residential aged care facilities. However, a number of residential aged care facilities continue to revise their needs assessment, and are in direct contact with Team Medical in relation to this.

Aged care providers in all PHN regions identified a need for vaccines through this process.

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**6 May 2020**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000194**

**Question Subject:** Aged care workers that have been part of the surge workforce

**Type of Questions:** Written

**Questioner:** Katy Gallagher

**Question:**

Please provide the number of additional aged care workers that have been part of the surge workforce provided through the online platform Mable. Please provide a breakdown of each worker by qualification and the name of the residential aged care facility or service provider they were sent to provide support.

**Answer:**

As at 12 May 2020, two service providers have accessed staff through Mable. A total of 35 staff have been engaged consisting of 14 Registered Nurses, 19 Personal Care Workers, and 2 physiotherapists.