

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Department of Health**

**Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**

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

**7 August 2020**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000474**

**Question Subject:** Infection control protocols for home care workers

**Type of Question:** Written

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Question:**

What infection control protocols are in place for home care workers and who is responsible for monitoring these protocols, for example is it the subcontractor, the worker, or the staffing agency)?

**Answer:**

The *Guide for Home Care Providers* provides guidance on how to manage during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Guide is available on the Department of Health's website at: [www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/05/coronavirus-covid-19-guide-for-home-care-providers.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/05/coronavirus-covid-19-guide-for-home-care-providers.pdf).

Approved providers are responsible for ensuring that all subcontractors, workers or agency staff are aware of the infection control protocols.

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Commission) ensures approved providers meet their obligations with respect to the Aged Care Quality Standards. Approved home care providers have COVID-19 response plans based on the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA) infection control guidelines, and the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice on visits to vulnerable groups. A Regulatory Response to COVID-19 Statement (published 2 April 2020), which outlines the approach to minimise infection risks to consumers and staff, is available from: [www.agedcarequality.gov.au/acqsc-regulatory-response-covid-19-statement-ms-janet-anderson-psm-aged-care-quality-and-safety-commissioner](http://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/acqsc-regulatory-response-covid-19-statement-ms-janet-anderson-psm-aged-care-quality-and-safety-commissioner).

The foundation online infection, prevention and control (IPC) module was developed and implemented by the Department of Health for all health care workers. As at 14 September, this COVID-19 foundation course had 1,295,131 enrolments and 1,208,928 completions.

In addition to this course, there are nine aged care specific online training modules. As at 14 September, across all of the COVID-19 training courses in the portal there have been 2,993,283 enrolments and 2,792,794 completions. Detail data on enrolment and completion numbers is below.

**Aged Care, Indigenous and Respiratory Clinic modules:**

Course Name	Completed	Total enrolments
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 1 - Personal Safety	178504	205160
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 2 - Families and Visitors - Part 1 - Residential Care	136911	149466
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 2 - Families and Visitors - Part 2 - In-home Care	129984	140078
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 3 - COVID 19 and Aged Care	143356	150760
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 4 - Outbreak Management Procedures	134680	141119
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 5 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	145311	152626
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 6 - Laundry	112688	117478
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 7 - Cleaning	98785	103772
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 8 - If you suspect a person has coronavirus COVID-19	126841	132587
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 9 - Supporting Older Australians - Part 1 Residential Care	88033	92418
COVID 19 - Aged Care Module 9 - Supporting Older Australians - Part 2 In-Home Care	84940	89369
COVID 19 - Indigenous Health Module 1 - Introduction To COVID-19 Epidemiology	57190	65643
COVID 19 - Indigenous Health Module 2 - Contact Tracing	51266	55525
COVID 19 - Indigenous Health Module 3 - Conducting interview with our mob	30811	32517
COVID 19 - Indigenous Health Module 4 - Using Personal Protective Equipment in remote communities	30522	32227
COVID 19 - Indigenous Health Module 5 - Line Listing and data management for COVID-19	29249	32100
COVID 19 - Respiratory Clinic Training	4431	5307

