

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Written question, received 9 October 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000700

Contract with 89 Degrees East for 'Aged Care COVID Communications'

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

1. In relation to the Department's \$1.37m contract with 89 Degrees East for "Aged Care COVID Communications" (Austender Contract Notice 3667985): a. Which section of the Department is responsible for the contract? b. Please provide the contract specification requirements, including key deliverables. c. Were any ministerial offices involved in the tender process, including the initial decision to engage a provider for this purpose? If yes please provide details. d. Will 89 Degrees East be required to engage with any ministerial offices under the contract? If yes please provide details.

Answer:

- a. The Aged Care COVID-19 Measures Implementation Branch in the Aged Care Reform and Compliance Division is responsible for the administration of the "Aged Care COVID Communications" contract with 89 Degrees East.
- b. The scope of the contract is aged care COVID-19 communications. Specific deliverables under the contract include: the development of communication artefacts; attending meetings; liaising with stakeholders, Department of Health (Department) personnel and other vendors working for the Department as required. The contract also specifies that media training may be required, which must be agreed between the contractor and the Department.
- c. Ministerial offices were not involved in the decision process to engage a provider, nor the procurement process to engage 89 Degrees East. The Department has engaged 89 Degrees East previously on a number of occasions to provide strategic communication services, including prior to the pandemic.
- d. There is no requirement for the contracted supplier to engage with ministerial offices.