

## **Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**

Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic  
– 18 August 2020

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Defence

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Q15 - 18 August 2020 - Commonwealth support to Victorian authorities - Paterson

**Question reference number:** 15

**Senator/Member:** James Paterson

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 04 September 2020

#### **Question:**

Given EMV Commissioner's statement that the ADF was neither offered nor sought by him to support hotel quarantine in Victoria, did the Commonwealth offer support to any other Victorian authorities?

#### **Answer:**

- Defence is not able to say if any support from other Commonwealth agencies was offered to Victorian authorities.
- Throughout the pandemic the ADF has been postured to respond to requests for support from the states and territories at very short notice.
  - From 21 March 2020, ADF planning teams were established in every state and territory to rapidly facilitate any requests for support.
- By 27 March 2020, the ADF had seven officers embedded across EMV and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to help facilitate expected requests for ADF support.
- On 28 March 2020, ADF officials asked whether Victorian authorities required assistance with its mandatory quarantine system on multiple occasions. No request for quarantine support was subsequently received from Victoria at that time.
- On 14 April 2020, the ADF shared observations on best practice quarantine compliance monitoring operations with all state and territory police commissioners, including the success of interagency operations between the ADF and NSW Police.
- Under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements, Defence provides assistance to states and territories when requested through Emergency Management Australia. DACC arrangements are predicated on states and territories requesting Defence assistance.