

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

29 September 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000696

Contracts with AusTender

Spoken

Hansard Page number: 33-34

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

CHAIR: In terms of the reviews that have been done, Professor Gilbert did the Newmarch report, and I think she also did Dorothy Henderson, didn't she?

Dr Murphy: Yes. With Newmarch she was joined by Mr Lilly.

CHAIR: And she's been commissioned to do St Basil's?

Dr Murphy: Yes, St Basil's and Epping Gardens, also in partnership with Mr Lilly.

CHAIR: Was that by limited tender? I think there's only one contractor. On AusTender it's difficult to track what's happened with that.

Dr Murphy: They were direct procurements. It's very hard to find the right expertise. And given that their expertise grew from the New South Wales outbreaks we saw, we needed to—particularly in the context of St Basil's, the families were very, very keen to feed back to an independent reviewer within days the issues that occurred there. So, we arranged for Mr Lilly to have a long Zoom briefing, for some hours, with the families. We had to initiate his contract fairly quickly, because it's really important for the families to be able to express their concerns to an independent person.

CHAIR: Are those contracts on AusTender?

Ms Laffan: I'm not sure. I'd have to check that.

Answer:

The procurement activities for the Newmarch House COVID-19 outbreak review are recorded on Austender. Contract Notice references are: CN3707148 and CN3707149.

The procurement activities for the reviews into outbreaks at St Basil's Home for the Aged and Heritage Care's Epping Gardens are recorded on Austender. Contract Notice references are: CN3736899, CN3737252 and CN3728795.