

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Formal record of the agreement to abolish COAG and continue the National Cabinet

Senator: Patrick

Question reference number: 0116

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 19 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Aside from what the PM said at his press conference on that day, 29 May, how was that agreement to abolish COAG and continue National Cabinet in its place formally recorded? Is there a minute or decision of national cabinet that sets that out formally? Is there a written intergovernmental agreement? Is there any further correspondence between the PM and the Premiers and Chief Ministers setting out their agreement?

Answer:

The decision to abolish COAG was a decision of the National Cabinet.

The Cabinet Handbook provides guidance on the recording of discussions and decisions of Cabinet and Cabinet committees.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Membership of the National Cabinet

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: 0125

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 19 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Why is the Australian Local Government Association not a member of the National Cabinet.

Answer:

The National Cabinet determined the membership of the National Cabinet.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is not a member of any Federal, state or territory Cabinet.

The ALGA will be represented on the National Federation Reform Council.