



**THE SENATE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON COVID-19**

7 January 2022

Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck
Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians

Via email:

Cc:

Dear Minister Colbeck

I write on behalf of the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 to invite you to appear a public hearing of the committee proposed for Friday, 14 January 2022. At the hearing, the committee intends to consider matters related to the impact of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, including the impact on older Australians and the aged care system.

The committee invites you to appear from 10.00am to 12.45pm (AEDT), alongside the Department of Health. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been invited to appear from 1.15pm to 2.45pm.

The committee is of the view that, given the fast-evolving COVID-19 Omicron situation, the proposed hearing is central to the Senate's ability to scrutinise the Australian Government's COVID-19 response. The committee considers that your attendance at the hearing would facilitate the Senate's scrutiny role.

If you agree to appear, the committee secretariat will work with your office to facilitate your attendance, either in person or via videoconference. The committee requests that you indicate by close of business Monday, 10 January 2022 whether you are available to attend the hearing.

I understand this invitation comes with short notice but as you would appreciate the situation has been unfolding over the Christmas and New Year period and this has prevented an earlier hearing.

If there any queries regarding the hearing, please contact the Committee Secretary, Ms Jeanette Radcliffe, by email at Jeanette.Radcliffe@aph.gov.au or by phone on (02) 6277 3718.

Yours sincerely

Senator Katy Gallagher
Committee Chair