

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday 23 April 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000010

Question Number: 01

Question Subject: National Incident Room

Type of Questions: Question in Writing

Questioner: Senator Gallagher

Question:

With reference to the opening statement by the Acting Secretary on 23 April 2020:

What is "Australia's National Incident Room" and what caused it to be activated on 20 January 2020.

Answer:

The National Incident Room (NIR) is the Department of Health emergency operations centre. The NIR responds to health events of national significance, both nationally and internationally. The NIR acts as a conduit for response and recovery operations within the Department of Health and between state and territory health authorities, other Commonwealth operations centres and the international health community. The NIR represents the Department of Health as the lead agency in coordinating national health responses to communicable disease outbreaks.

On 1 January 2020, the Department of Health began monitoring the pneumonia cluster in Wuhan, China. On 5 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) advised the Department of Health, as the International Health Regulations National Focal Point of Australia, of a cluster of pneumonia of unknown etiology reported in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China.

On 9 January 2020 the WHO reported that Chinese authorities had made a preliminary determination of a novel (or new) coronavirus, identified in a person hospitalised with pneumonia in Wuhan, China. The potential for severity demonstrated by other coronaviruses

(e.g. MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV), and reported severity in some patients infected with this novel coronavirus, led to intense global interest and concerns around disease transmission.

By 20 January 2020, there had been 202 cases diagnosed with novel coronavirus, including two in Thailand, one in Japan and one in South Korea. Open source media was reporting far greater numbers, and given the spectrum of clinical symptoms at that time, it was likely that individuals with mild symptoms or who were asymptomatic, remained undetected.

On 20 January 2020, the Department convened an extraordinary meeting of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia to discuss the escalating situation. Members agreed a nationally coordinated health sector response was advisable to ensure consistent public communications and escalated response measures. Accordingly, the NIR was activated that same day to coordinate the national health sector response to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday 23 April 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000011

Question Number: 02

Question Subject: Australian Health Protection Principal Committee

Type of Questions: Question in Writing

Questioner: Senator Gallagher

Question:

On what days did the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee meet in January 2020. Who was present at each meeting?

Answer:

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) met via teleconference on 20, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 January 2020.

All jurisdictions are represented at all AHPPC meetings. AHPPC comprises of the Chief Health Officers of each jurisdiction as well as a range of experts as required. If a Chief Health Officer is unable to attend, they nominate a senior representative from their jurisdiction.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday 23 April 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000013

Question Number: 04

Question Subject: COVID-19 Health Packages

Type of Questions: Question in Writing

Questioner: Senator Gallagher

Question:

Can details of all COVID-19 health "packages" be provided including:

- (a) date of announcement
- (b) budgeted expenditure and (e) actual expenditure to date.

Answer:

This data was drawn from Health's Financial Management systems and changes on a daily basis.
Correct as at **22 April 2020**.

Package	Date Announced	2019-2020			2020-2021	
		Health Budget \$'000	Other Commonwealth Entities Budget \$'000	Health Actuals (to 22 April 2020) \$'000	Health Budget \$'000	Other Commonwealth Entities Budget \$'000
\$2.4 Billion Health Plan to Fight COVID-19	11-Mar-20	1,713,583	5,959	1,153,672	704,405	5,494
Aged Care Workforce Continuity Announcement	20-Mar-20	281,067	123,239	1,200	40,200	-
\$1.1 Billion to Support More Mental Health, Medicare and Domestic Violence Services (\$743 million for Health measures)	29-Mar-20	343,859	5,440	-	359,402	34,611
Assistance with food and meals for older Australians impacted by COVID-19	31-Mar-20	33,100	-	-	26,200	-
Harnessing Private Hospital Capacity	31-Mar-20	642,000	-	268,952	642,000	-
Advance to the Finance Minister - National Medical Stockpile	3-Apr-20 and 9-Apr-20	1,580,000	-	49,537	-	-
Grand Total		4,593,609	134,638	1,473,361	1,772,207	40,105

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday 23 April 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000014

Question Number: 05

Question Subject: COVID-19 related contracts

Type of Questions: Question in Writing

Questioner: Senator Gallagher

Question:

Can all COVID-19-related contracts entered into by the department be provided including (a) name of contractor (b) value of contract (c) term of contract (d) description of services to be provided and (e) AusTender contract number.

Answer:

Parts (a) to (e) are in the attached spreadsheet which is correct as at 29 April 2020.

The Department continues to register COVID-19-related contracts on AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au).

Contract: Registration No.	Name of Contractor	Contract Value (GST Incl.)	Contract: Execution Date	Contract: Completion Date	Description Of Services	Austender CN Number
4500136599	89 DEGREES EAST PTY LTD	600,000.00	19.03.2020	30.06.2020	AGED CARE COVID-19 COMMUNICATIONS	CN3667985
4500136655	Aged Care Channel Pty Limited	44,000.00	23.03.2020	30.06.2020	AGED CARE COVID-19 ONLINE TRAINING MODULES	CN3668653
4500136795	Australian Meals on Wheels	1,320,000.00	03.04.2020	30.06.2020	SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL COORDINATION OF EMERGENCY MEALS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19	CN3671938
4500136870	Mable Technologies Pty Ltd	5,771,700.00	03.04.2020	30.06.2020	AGED CARE COVID-19 INCREASE AGED CARE WORKERS TO SUPPORT THE AGED CARE INDUSTRY	CN3673048
4500136900	Aspen Medical Pty Limited	15,675,779.20	09.04.2020	09.10.2020	COVID-19 AGED CARE - ESTABLISH AGED CARE REMOTE LOCUMS AND AGED CARE EMERGENCY RETRIEVAL TEAMS	CN3673052
4500136669	33 CREATIVE PTY LTD	421,905.00	19.03.2020	30.06.2021	PROJECT TO DELIVER MARKETING AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL RE COVID19	CN3670089
4500136551	Quantium Health Pty Ltd	1,078,880.00	17.03.2020	31.12.2020	COVID-19 DATA ANALYTICS	CN3667184
4500136586	Health Hub Doctors Morayfield	385,000.00	19.03.2020	19.06.2020	MEDICAL SERVICES	CN3677047
4500136594	The Trustee for the KRMC Unit Trust	385,000.00	20.03.2020	20.06.2020	COVID-19 GP LED RESP CLINICS	CN3677051
4500136606	Wise Medical Macquarie Park Pty Ltd	385,000.00	20.03.2020	20.06.2020	MEDICAL SERVICES	CN3677053
4500136651	89 DEGREES EAST PTY LTD	600,000.01	23.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID19 RESPONSE - COMMUNICATIONS	CN3668655
4500136733	Central Highlands Healthcare Ltd	385,000.00	23.03.2020	23.06.2020	COVID-19 GP LED RESPIRATORY CLINICS	CN3677054
4500136734	Nundah Respiratory Pty Ltd	385,000.00	25.03.2020	26.06.2020	COVID-19 GP LED RESP CLINICS	CN3677057
4500136736	The Trustee for Hope Medical Services	330,000.00	26.03.2020	26.06.2020	COVID-19 GP LED RESP CLINICS	CN3677058
4500136741	Loxley Health Solutions Pty Limited	385,000.00	27.03.2020	27.03.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINIC	CN3677060
4500136747	Star Health Group Limited	275,000.00	27.03.2020	27.06.2020	COVID-19 GP RESPIRATORY CLINICS	CN3677061
4500136748	The Trustee For Arkaba Medical Centre	385,000.00	30.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID-19 GP RESPIRATORY CLINICS	CN3677063
4500136750	Spring Street Discretionary Trust	385,000.00	28.03.2020	28.06.2020	COVID-19 GP RESPIRATORY CLINICS	CN3677066
4500136760	Cohealth Ltd	330,000.00	30.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677068
4500136767	SUNRAYSA COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES LTD	385,000.00	31.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID 19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677074
4500136768	Belmore Medical Services Pty Ltd	220,000.00	31.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677077
4500136773	UFS DISPENSARIES LTD	385,000.00	31.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677080
4500136775	RFC Medical Services Pty Ltd	385,000.00	31.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677082
4500136777	PROTIVITI PTY LIMITED	294,525.00	23.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SEVICES	CN3671932
4500136780	The Trustee for LIANG HEALTH FAMILY	385,000.00	02.04.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINIC	CN3677088
4500136781	Terrace Group Pty Ltd	330,000.00	02.04.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677089
4500136782	EACH	330,000.00	01.04.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677091
4500136817	GLH Securities Pty Ltd	385,000.00	02.04.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677124
4500136818	The Trustee for Isra Medical Family	275,000.00	03.04.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677132
4500136819	South Eastern Sydney Local Health	220,000.00	03.04.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677135
4500136820	Kardinia Health Ltd	275,000.00	30.03.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677137
4500136821	FCD Health Ltd	385,000.00	03.04.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677138
4500136822	Institute for Urban Indigenous Health	385,000.00	31.03.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677146
4500136823	The Trustee for North Altona Health Hub	385,000.00	01.04.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3677150
4500136945	The Trustee for the Clare Medical	385,000.00	09.04.2020	14.08.2020	COVID-19 GP RESP CLINICS	CN3676962
4500136951	The University of Melbourne	163,032.00	06.04.2020	15.07.2020	COVID-19 DRIVE THROUGH CLINICS	CN3674403
4500136994	Australian National University	85,226.90	16.04.2020	05.07.2020	COVID-19 ALLIED HEALTH IPC PROTOCOL	CN3674417
4500136957	KPMG	550,000.00	31.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID-19 TASKFORCE CONTRACTORS	CN3674400
4500136311	The Trustee for CW Management Trust	70,936.01	19.02.2020	14.08.2020	EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF THERMOMETERS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK	CN3661906
4500136329	Aspen Medical Pty Limited	77,604.09	19.02.2020	14.08.2020	EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF THERMOMETERS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK	CN3662467
4500136373	The University of Melbourne	31,690.00	20.03.2020	04.05.2020	HOUSEHOLD TRANSMISSION INVESTIGATION FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFECTION	CN3668647
4500136554	CANPRINT Communications Pty Ltd	35,656.50	05.03.2020	02.04.2020	DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 FACTSHEETS TO AIRLINES	CN3667186
4500136555	CANPRINT Communications Pty Ltd	42,317.00	11.03.2020	11.04.2020	PRINTING OF COVID-19 FACTSHEETS FOR TRAVELELRS	CN3667187
4500136556	CANPRINT Communications Pty Ltd	56,270.50	11.03.2020	26.05.2020	DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 FACTSHEETS FOR TRAVELLERS	CN3667188
4500136557	CANPRINT Communications Pty Ltd	56,270.50	16.03.2020	16.04.2020	DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 FACTSHEETS	CN3667189
4500136558	CANPRINT Communications Pty Ltd	42,317.00	16.03.2020	16.04.2020	PRINTING OF COVID-19 FACTSHEETS	CN3667190
4500136593	CANPRINT Communications Pty Ltd	14,630.00	19.03.2020	19.04.2020	PRINTING OF ISOLATION DECLARATION CARDS	CN3668642
4500136652	CANPRINT Communications Pty Ltd	20,449.00	23.03.2020	23.04.2020	DISTRIBUTION OF COVID ISOLATION DECLARATION CARDS	CN3668654
4500136855	INSTANT COLOUR PRESS PTY. LIMITED	43,052.90	02.03.2020	31.03.2020	PRINTING OF 33 BANNERS FOR COVID	CN3672435
4500136630	Australian College of Nursing Ltd	1,000,000.00	24.03.2020	31.12.2020	PROVISION OF REFRESHER PROGRAM TO ELIGIBLE NURSES TO REFRESH ACUTE CARE KNOWLEDGE FOR COVID-19 RESPO	CN3668659
4500137163	AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF RURAL	220,000.00	24.04.2020	30.10.2020	COVID-19 SUPPORT FOR RURAL AND REMOTE GPS	CN3676984
4500136435	Snapcracker Research & Strategy Pty Ltd	56,375.00	04.03.2020	30.06.2020	CONCEPT TESTING RESEARCH FOR COVID-19 CAMPAIGN	CN3664565
4500136485	Mediabrand Australia Pty Ltd	2,332,000.00	12.03.2020	30.06.2020	MEDIA BUY - COVID-19	CN3665433
4500136509	Mediabrand Australia Pty Ltd	1,404,151.14	13.03.2020	30.06.2020	MEDIA COVID-19	CN3666195
4500136517	Hall & Partners Pty Ltd	127,974.00	12.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID-19 CAMPAIGN EVALUATION	CN3666198

Contract: Registration No.	Name of Contractor	Contract Value (GST Incl.)	Contract: Execution Date	Contract: Completion Date	Description Of Services	Austender CN Number
4500136597	Mediabrand Australia Pty Ltd	12,980,000.00	19.03.2020	30.06.2020	MEDIA BUY COVID-19 CAMPAIGN - PHASE TWO EXTENSION	CN3667983
4500136702	Mediabrand Australia Pty Ltd	31,952,760.05	27.03.2020	30.06.2020	COVID-19 CAMPAIGN MEDIA BUY	CN3670109
4500137029	ISENTIA PTY LIMITED	66,000.00	20.04.2020	15.07.2020	ISENTIA - INSIGHTS/REPORTING SERVICES - COVID-19	CN3674413
4500136742	MEDCAST PTY LTD	4,125,000.00	31.03.2020	31.12.2020	ONLINE EDUCATION TO SUPPORT REGISTERED NURSES TRANSITION TO ASSIST IN CRITICAL CARE NURSING	CN3670690
4500136565	Newgate Communications Pty Limited	60,000.00	18.03.2020	30.06.2020	MEDIA	CN3667193
4500136583	Ipsos Public Affairs Pty Ltd	47,932.50	05.03.2020	14.08.2020	SYNDICATED RESEARCH	CN3667976
4500136792	DELV PTY LTD	1,438,800.00	13.03.2020	30.06.2020	DEVELOPMENT OF MOBILE APP FOR COVID-19	CN3671937

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday 23 April 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000022

Question Number: 13

Question Subject: Cruise ship pandemic

Type of Questions: Question in Writing

Questioner: Senator Gallagher

Question:

Can details be provided of the joint exercise with New South Wales Health in May 2019 related to a pandemic in a cruise ship coming into Sydney.

Answer:

Exercise EmergenSea Detour, was conducted on 1 May 2019 at the Department of Health's central office in Canberra.

The aim of the exercise was to strengthen the capacity of Health and the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) to work effectively together to manage human biosecurity emergencies, with a particular focus on roles and responsibilities for cruise ships. Health and DAWE work together in a number of areas, with management of responsibilities under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* a key area.

The exercise also acknowledged the critical role of state and territory governments in the scenarios and included an examination of interaction with these agencies.

Three state health services participated in the exercise to assist with providing information about the range of those interactions - NSW Health, the Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.

The particular focus of this exercise was on building a better understanding of agencies' priorities, needs and processes. Clinical management of cases and jurisdictional public health arrangements were out of scope for the exercise.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday 23 April 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000023

Question Number: 14

Question Subject: Recommendations by the AHPPC

Type of Questions: Question in Writing

Questioner: Senator Gallagher

Question:

Have all recommendations by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) related to COVID-19 been adopted.

Answer:

The AHPPC has regularly put forward advice on Australia's health response to COVID-19 for consideration by all Australian Governments. AHPPC statements are publically available at this link: <https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc#statements>.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday 23 April 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-00025

Question Number: 16

Question Subject: 2020 Football season

Type of Questions: Question in Writing

Questioner: Senator Gallagher

Question:

Has the department or the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee provided any advice on the resumption of the 2020 season for (a) the National Rugby League or (b) the Australian Football League. If so, on what date/s.

Answer:

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has endorsed national principles for the resumption of sport and recreation activity in Australia. This advice is available on the Department of Health website at <https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc#statements>.

The AHPPC has endorsed the formation of a COVID-19 Sports and Health Committee to provide any further and specific decisions about the resumption of sport and to monitor and report on any COVID-19 related issues in the sector during the resumption phase. This Committee will comprise of the Australian Institute of Sport Medical Director, an infection control expert, representatives of jurisdictions and the Commonwealth Deputy Chief Medical Officer.

The AHPPC discussed the NRL proposal and determined the specific advice to the NRL and approval or otherwise should be provided by the States and Territories in which the competition is proposed to resume.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday 23 April 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000026

Question Number: 17

Question Subject: NSW Special Commission into the Ruby Princess

Type of Questions: Question in Writing

Questioner: Senator Gallagher

Question:

Has the department been asked to provide any information to the New South Wales Special Commission of Inquiry into the Ruby Princess. If so, (a) on what date/s and (b) what information has been provided.

Answer:

As at 12 May 2020, the Commonwealth Department of Health has not yet been asked to provide any information to the New South Wales Special Commission of Inquiry.