

## 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:** Organisational diagram of reporting lines

**Senator:** Patrick

**Question reference number:** 0179

**Type of question:** Hansard, page 12-13, 11 August 2020

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 25 August 2020

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

**Senator PATRICK:** This is my last question. Mr Gaetjens, could you please provide, on notice, the committee with an organisational diagram that shows the reporting lines up from the commission and also the directions going into the commission, if any, just so the committee very clearly know who is responsible? My Navy experience is that, if you can't point at the person in charge, there's no-one in charge. I just want to understand where those points are in the organisational flow.

**Mr Gaetjens:** I'm sure we can do that. I don't know if Mr Power wants to make a comment.

**Mr Power:** I can perhaps add a little bit. I chair the commissioner's former board, and we provide advice directly to the Prime Minister. We have a number of working groups—four to date—that have provided information or are in the process of providing reports and information to the commission.

#### **Answer:**

The National COVID-19 Commission (NCC) Advisory Board's organisation chart is attached.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Secretary - Phil Gaetjens**

Executive Assistant- Bev Sims PSM

Executive Adviser- Jessica Ranjit

Chief of Staff- Victoria Pullen \*

**Chairperson, National COVID-19 Commission  
Advisory Board**

Mr Nev Power

**Chief Executive Officer**

Mr Peter Harris AO

**Deputy Chief Executive Officer**

Malcolm Thompson

**Policy**

FAS Diana Hallam

AS: Garth Taylor

FAS Kylie Bryant

AS: Melissa Bray

**Communications, Coordination and Corporate**

AS: Heike Phillips

As at 17 August 2020

\* Denotes acting arrangement

## 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:** Committees of the National Cabinet

**Senator:** Gallagher

**Question reference number:** 0189

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#### Question:

**CHAIR:** What about the National Federation Reform Council task forces? Are they committees of the cabinet?

**Ms Foster:** The reform task forces, as they are established, will be committees of national cabinet.

**CHAIR:** But have they been formed yet?

**Ms Foster:** They are in the process of being formed, so some have; others are forecast.

**Mr Duggan:** The skills committee has been formed. That was an outcome of the last national cabinet meeting and the Council of Federal Financial Relations has been given the task.

**CHAIR:** What is the delay? Why is it taking so long? This was announced two months ago. What is the problem?

**Ms Foster:** There is not a problem. What we are doing is focusing the effort on areas of greatest need immediately, so skills obviously is one of the highest priorities for us to tackle first.

**CHAIR:** Health would be presumably, too. Has that been settled?

**Ms Foster:** As you know, we have got a very extensive network of health officials working together at the moment. The status of the reform council, I will need to check for you.

**CHAIR:** Where would aged care sit within those task forces?

**Ms Foster:** Again, I think health and aged care are proposed to be one taskforce.

**CHAIR:** But it is not established yet?

**Ms Foster:** I am just checking that for you.

#### Answer:

On 12 June 2020, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, announced National Cabinet's decision to establish six National Cabinet Reform Committees in the areas of:

- Rural and Regional Australia;
- Skills;
- Energy;
- Infrastructure and Transport;

- Population and Migration; and
- Health.

The Committees are sub-committees of National Cabinet. They are methodically and progressively being stood-up as National Cabinet identifies priorities to refer to each of them.