

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-80

Subject: Supermarket Taskforce - meeting dates

Asked by: Janet Rice

Question:

What dates has the Supermarkets Taskforce and its working groups met on since 18 March?

Answer:

The Supermarket Taskforce and associated working groups have met on 49 occasions as at 26 May 2020. The dates for each meeting are listed below.

- **Supermarket Taskforce**
 - 19 March 2020
 - 20 March 2020
 - 23 March 2020
 - 25 March 2020
 - 30 March 2020
 - 1 April 2020
 - 3 April 2020
 - 7 April 2020
 - 15 April 2020
 - 22 April 2020

- **Senior Executives Meeting**
 - 29 April 2020
 - 6 May 2020
 - 13 May 2020
 - 27 May 2020

- **Tiger Team**

- 19 March 2020
- 23 March 2020
- 25 March 2020
- 30 March 2020
- 1 April 2020
- 3 April 2020
- 7 April 2020
- 15 April 2020
- 22 April 2020

- **Border Clearances Working Group**

- 20 March 2020
- 24 March 2020
- 2 April 2020
- 9 April 2020

- **Safety of Customers and Staff Working Group**

- 20 March 2020
- 24 March 2020
- 26 March 2020
- 31 March 2020
- 2 April 2020
- 6 April 2020
- 14 April 2020
- 21 April 2020
- 28 April 2020
- 5 May 2020
- 19 May 2020

- **Food Supply Working Group (formerly Home Delivery Working Group)**

- 19 March 2020
- 24 March 2020
- 26 March 2020
- 31 March 2020
- 2 April 2020
- 8 April 2020
- 16 April 2020
- 23 April 2020
- 30 April 2020
- 7 May 2020
- 21 May 2020

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-81

Subject: Supermarket Taskforce - Membership

Asked by: Janet Rice

Question:

In relation to the membership of the Supermarkets Taskforce:

What public sector agencies are represented in the Supermarkets Taskforce and its working groups?

What private sector entities are represented in the Supermarkets Taskforce and its working groups?

Are there any other entities represented on the Supermarkets Taskforce?

Answer:

As at 26 May 2020, the following public sector agencies have been represented at the Supermarket Taskforce and/or its associated working groups:

- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
- Australia Post
- Australian Border Force
- Australian Capital Territory Government
- Australian Federal Police
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
- Department of Defence
- Department of Finance
- Department of Health
- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Social Services
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Emergency Management Victoria
- National Disability Insurance Agency

- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- New South Wales Government
- New South Wales Police
- Northern Territory Government
- Queensland Government
- Safe Work Australia
- Services Australia
- South Australia Fire & Emergency Services Commission
- South Australia Government
- Victoria Department of Health and Human Services
- Victoria Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
- Victoria Police
- Victorian Government
- Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Western Australia Government
- Western Australia Police

As at 26 May 2020, the following private sector entities have been represented at the Supermarket Taskforce and/or its associated working groups:

- Aldi
- Amazon
- Australasian Association of Convenience Stores
- Australian Beverages Council
- Australian Convenience and Petroleum Marketers Association
- Australian Food and Grocery Council
- Australian Logistics Council
- Australian Meat Industry Council
- Australian United Retailers
- CCL Consultants (representing Aldi)
- Coles
- Costco
- Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia
- Harris Farm Markets
- IGA
- Kmart
- Metcash
- Master Grocers Australia Independent Retailers
- National Retail Association
- SPAR
- Target
- Woolworths

As at 26 May 2020, the following other entities not listed above have been represented at the Supermarket Taskforce and/or its associated working groups:

- Australian Red Cross
- Foodbank

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-82

Subject: Supermarket Taskforce - decision making process

Asked by: Janet Rice

Question:

How do the decision-making processes and recommendations of the Supermarkets Taskforce inform government decision making?

Has the Supermarkets Taskforce provided recommendations to the Australian Government Cabinet, or the National Cabinet?

In which instances has the work of the Supermarkets Taskforce informed steps taken by private sector participants (eg. instances similar to the limit on alcohol purchases)?

Answer:

The Supermarket Taskforce, led by the Department of Home Affairs, was established on 18 March 2020 to respond to challenges facing supermarkets arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to coordinate supermarket responses across Australia. The Supermarket Taskforce was established as a collaboration mechanism. Industry cooperation has been critical to stabilising consumer confidence, maintaining equitable access to food and minimising negative impacts, including health risks, for supermarket staff and customers.

There are a range of areas where participants in the Supermarket Taskforce cooperated in responding to COVID-19, supported by an Australian Competition and Consumer and Commission authorisation. These areas of cooperation have included:

- changing in-store operations to support social distancing such as developing and implementing industry-led voluntary customer limits in stores
- approaching state and territory governments to adjust trading hours while managing demand (around Easter and ANZAC Day; daily community hours)
- scaling-up home delivery and click and collect services, and prioritising vulnerable people for these services
- industry-imposed limits on items subject to excess demand
- discussing item limits to manage demand for certain goods and cooperating to support supply of certain goods to remote and regional Australia
- approaching AusPayNet to trial increased contactless card transaction limits.

The Supermarket Taskforce has not provided recommendations to the Australian Government Cabinet or the National Cabinet. Updates on collaborative activities undertaken by the Supermarket Taskforce were provided via the National Coordination Mechanism.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-83

Subject: Supermarket Taskforce - liaison with state and territory governments

Asked by: Janet Rice

Question:

In its liaison with state and territory governments or other relevant entities, has the Supermarkets Taskforce received any summaries from state and territory governments on steps taken to ensure worker safety, particularly in food production facilities?

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) received a document from the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries on COVID-19 advice for food businesses. DAWE shared this document with both the Supermarket Taskforce and the working group established under the Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC).

The document provided to DAWE by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries was used, along with other state and territory documents, to update the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) website. The FSANZ website is the central point for national food safety advice to consumers and food businesses on COVID-19. The website provides advice for food businesses on COVID-19 and food safety, and links to state and territory specific advice where available.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-84

Subject: Supermarket Taskforce - food security

Asked by: Janet Rice

Question:

What work has the Supermarkets Taskforce and its members undertaken to ensure food security in regional and remote communities?

- o How is food security measured in relation to regional and remote communities?
- o Does the Taskforce have any estimates of the current proportion of regional and remote communities that are not food secure?

Answer:

The Supermarket Taskforce and its members has been working closely with the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to ensure food security and supply to regional and remote communities is a high priority throughout the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. DAWE is the lead agency with policy responsibility for food security.

With supermarket cooperation enabled through the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) interim authorisation, the Supermarket Taskforce has been able to facilitate consumer access to products in regional and remote communities. For example, major retailers have cooperated to facilitate the supply of food and grocery products, such as flour, to remote regional communities in Northern Territory and far north Queensland.

Additionally, the NIAA has established a Remote Food Security Working Group, of which some Supermarket Taskforce members are participants. The NIAA Remote Food Security Working Group brings together community store management companies, suppliers, and state and territory governments to identify issues impacting remote food security and to escalate them for resolution to the appropriate state, territory or national forums as required through the Hon Ken Wyatt MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians, and the Supermarket Taskforce.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-85

Subject: Online grooming attempts

Asked by: Stirling Griff

Question:

What is the number of online grooming attempts recorded for January, February, March, April and May 2020?

Answer:

Reports referencing online grooming could be included in both incoming reports from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, as well as from Member of the Public reporting.

Between March and April 2020, the ACCCE saw the highest month on month increase in Member of the Public reports received since January 2019. Referrals from international law enforcement partners, including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, have steadily increased in the period between January 2019 and April 2020.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-86

Subject: Community reports to the ACCCE

Asked by: Stirling Griff

Question:

How many reports from the community have been received by the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation's (ACCCE) triage unit during the pandemic?

Answer:

Member of the Public (MoP) Reports, received by via the AFP website's online reporting portal and public hotline, and via referral from international law enforcement partners including the NCMEC, have steadily increased in the period between January 2019 and April 2020.

Between March and April 2020, the ACCCE saw the highest month on month increase in MoP reports received since January 2019.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-87

Subject: Warrants issued for home searches

Asked by: Stirling Griff

Question:

How many warrants have been issued to search the home of alleged online sexual predators during the pandemic?

Answer:

From 9 March to 25 May 2020, 56 premise warrants have been issued in relation to online child sexual exploitation.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-88

Subject: Number of sexual predators apprehended

Asked by: Stirling Griff

Question:

How many online sexual predators have been apprehended during the pandemic?

Answer:

From 9 March to 25 May 2020, the AFP has arrested or summonsed 47 individuals, and laid a total of 219 charges.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-89

Subject: Number of items seized

Asked by: Stirling Griff

Question:

How many images, files, videos of child exploitation material have been seized during the pandemic compared with the same time last year?

Answer:

The AFP can advise that, compared to the same period last year, the amount of shared Child Abuse Material (CAM), which includes images, file and videos on the dark web has increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic,.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-90

Subject: Secretary briefing to Minister on cruise ship ban

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

When did Secretary Pezzullo brief Minister Dutton about The Cruise Ship Ban?

- a. How was this briefing conducted?
 - i. If formal documents were prepared for this brief, please provide these documents to the Committee.
- b. When was this briefing conducted?
- c. Who was present for this briefing?
- d. How long did the briefing last?
- e. Were notes or minutes taken of this meeting?
 - i. If so, please provide these documents to the Committee.
- f. Were there actionable items emerging from this meeting?
 - i. If so, please provide a list of this actionable items to the Committee.
- g. Were there any subsequent briefings on this matter?
 - i. If so, please provide a list of dates that these subsequent briefings

Answer:

The Minister was briefed by way of tactical operational reporting, the outcomes of which were captured on Departmental records.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-91

Subject: Information provided to Minister on ships excluded from cruise ship ban

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

What information was provided to the Minister regarding the ships which were excluded from The Cruise Ship Ban under 5(b) of the Determination?

- a. Who did Secretary Pezzullo or his staff consult with in preparing this information for the Minister?
- b. Did the Minister request additional information from the Secretary?
 - i. If so, what was this information, and when was it provided to the Minister?

Answer:

A list of exempt vessels and their arrival dates was provided to Minister Dutton's Office by the Australian Border Force (ABF). Commencing 21 March 2020, the number of passengers and crew reporting to be ill on board each of the exempt vessels was provided by the ABF to the Minister's Office on a daily basis.

- a) The ABF consulted internally, with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and with cruise ship agents.
- b) The Minister did not request additional information.
 - i. N/A.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-92

Subject: Information provided to Minister on health status of passengers

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

What information was provided to the Minister regarding the health status of passengers on board ships that were excluded from The Cruise Ship Ban under 5(b) of the Determination?

- a. Who did Secretary Pezzullo or his staff consult with in preparing this information for the Minister?
- b. Did the Minister request additional information from the Secretary?
 - i. If so, what was this information, and when was it provided to the Minister?

Answer:

Commencing 21 March 2020, the number of passengers and crew reporting to be ill on board each of the exempt vessels was provided by the Australian Border Force (ABF) to the Minister's Office on a daily basis.

- a. Secretary Pezzullo was not involved in the provision of this information. The ABF liaised with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and the cruise ship agents.
- b. The Minister did not request additional information.
 - i. N/A.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-93

Subject: Biosecurity Status Document regarding Ruby Princess

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

When was the Department first made aware of the Department of Agriculture's Biosecurity Status Document (BSD) regarding the Ruby Princess issued 2:09pm 16 March 2020?

- a. When was the Secretary first made aware of this BSD?
- b. What was the Secretary's understanding of this BSD, specifically the determination made by the Department of Agriculture that "there are human health issues on board the vessel", and that the Ruby Princess required negative pratique before disembarking passengers in Australia?
- c. What actions did the Secretary take as a result of this BSD?
- d. When was the Minister first made aware of this BSD?
- e. What was the Minister's understanding of this BSD, specifically the determination made by the Department of Agriculture that "there are human health issues on board the vessel", and that the Ruby Princess required negative pratique before disembarking passengers in Australia?
- f. What actions did the Minister take as a result of this BSD?

Answer:

The Department and Australian Border Force (ABF) were not given a copy of the Biosecurity Status Document (BSD) regarding the Ruby Princess issued at 2:09pm 16 March 2020. BSDs are not provided to the Department or the ABF. Questions regarding the BSD should be directed to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-94

Subject: Secretary's letter to the Minister for Health

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

In Secretary Pezzullo's letter dated 16 March 2020, he advised Minister Hunt to include "requirements and directions" that make the exemption in 5(b) subject to conditions which "would allow vessels with suspected COVID-19 cases" to be subject to "enhanced controls". The Department of Agriculture has provided answers to questions on notice which state that the Ruby Princess provided reports to the Department on 16 March 2020 which "indicated people on board had symptoms that may be consistent with a listed human disease", and they subsequently assessed that the vessel required negative pratique before disembarking passengers in Australia. Given this evidence, would the Ruby Princess have been captured by Secretary Pezzullo's proposed arrangements that he outlined in his letter dated 16 March 2020, but which were ultimately disregarded by Minister Hunt?

Answer:

There is no such correspondence between Secretary Pezzullo and Minister Hunt.

Secretary Pezzullo's letter of 16 March 2020 to the Acting Secretary of the Department of Health was used by Minister Hunt in exercising his statutory functions under s477(1) of the Biosecurity Act 2015.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-95

Subject: Visa Figures

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Since it commenced on 16 November 2019, how many applications have been received for the Subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa? Please provide a state-by-state breakdown.

Answer:

From 16 November 2019 to 30 April 2020, the Department of Home Affairs received 5,709 Subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa applications.

**Subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional (Provisional)
Visa applications lodged (received) 16 November 2019 to 30 April 2020
By nominating state/territory**

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2020.

Lodged	16/11/2019 to 30/04/2020
Nominating state/territory	
Australian Capital Territory	235
Northern Territory	248
Queensland	1,088
South Australia	910
Tasmania	1,211
Victoria	689
Western Australia	102
Family Sponsored	1,226
Total	5,709

Note: Includes primary and secondary applicants.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-96

Subject: Visa Figures

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Since it commenced on 16 November 2019, how many applications for the Subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa have been approved? Please provide a state-by-state breakdown.

Answer:

From 16 November 2019 to 30 April 2020, the Department of Home Affairs approved 1,412 Subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa applications.

**Subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional (Provisional)
Visa applications granted 16 November 2019 to 30 April 2020
By nominating state/territory**

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2020.

Granted	16/11/2019 to 30/04/2020
Nominating state/territory	
Australian Capital Territory	10
Northern Territory	77
Queensland	190
South Australia	123
Tasmania	468
Victoria	229
Western Australia	8
Family Sponsored	307
Total	1,412

Note: Includes primary and secondary applicants.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-97

Subject: Visa Figures

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Since it commenced on 16 November 2019, how many applications have been received for the Subclass 494 Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa? Please provide a state-by-state breakdown.

Answer:

From 16 November 2019 to 30 April 2020, the Department of Home Affairs received 288 Subclass 494 Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa applications.

**Subclass 494 Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional)
Visa applications lodged (received) 16 November 2019 to 30 April 2020
By nominated location state/territory**

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2020.

Lodged	16/11/2019 to 30/04/2020
Nominated Location State/Territory	
Australian Capital Territory	16
New South Wales	66
Northern Territory	<5
Queensland	60
South Australia	19
Tasmania	10
Victoria	8
Western Australia	106
Total	288

Note: Includes primary and secondary applicants.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-98

Subject: Visa Figures

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Since it commenced on 16 November 2019, how many applications for the Subclass 494 Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa have been approved? Please provide a state-by-state breakdown.

Answer:

From 16 November 2019 to 30 April 2020, the Department of Home Affairs approved 88 Subclass 494 Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa applications.

**Subclass 494 Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional)
Visa applications granted 16 November 2019 to 30 April 2020
By nominated location state/territory**

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2020.

Granted	16/11/2019 to 30/04/2020
Nominated Location State/Territory	
Australian Capital Territory	9
New South Wales	29
Northern Territory	<5
Queensland	18
South Australia	<5
Tasmania	<5
Victoria	<5
Western Australia	25
Total	88

Note: Includes primary and secondary applicants.