PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Inquiry into Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

23 July 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000150

Number of people who have contracted COVID-19 while receiving in-home care

Written

Hansard Page number: 23

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Yes, I do. In terms of the number of people who had in-home care in New South Wales, do you have the figures on how many people have contracted COVID while getting home care?

Dr Murphy: We'll have to take that on notice, Senator. We have data on the residential care workforce. I'm not aware of home care workers contracting in New South Wales, but we'd have to take that on notice. If Professor Kelly doesn't know from his AHPPC discussions, we'd have to check with NSW Health. We do have good data on residential care workers, and there have been a number of those who have contracted COVID.

Senator SIEWERT: I'll come back to that in a minute. Could I please then ask, on notice, for home care workers and older people who are receiving the care.

Dr Murphy: We'll take that on notice, Senator.

Answer:

- As at 4 August 2021, 83 Australians across the country receiving in-home aged care services have contracted COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.
    - This includes 15 people in New South Wales.
- Also, at 4 August 2021, 43 in-home aged care workers across the country have contracted COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.
    - This includes six staff members in New South Wales.
- Nationally, this represents 3.9 per cent of the total COVID-19 cases in recipients of aged care services, and 1.9 per cent of the total COVID-19 cases in aged care workers.