

COVID-19

Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic – 29 September 2020

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Q17 - 29 September 2020 – Defence personnel assisting with hotel quarantine - Keneally

Question reference number: 17

Senator: Kristina Keneally

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 October 2020

Question:

Please provide data to indicate how many Defence personnel have been deployed to assist hotel quarantine. Please provide monthly data, broken down by state/territory.

Answer:

	NSW	QLD	SA	WA
March	84	52	0	0
April	313	87	0	0
May	299	110	0	0
June	104	105	0	0
July	164	195	0	20
August	214	178	11	75
September	255	339	42	112

These figures are based on numbers of ADF tasked to quarantine compliance support duties in each state/territory as at the final day of each month. Defence support for hotel quarantine compliance was not requested by Victoria, Tasmania, Northern Territory or ACT.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Q18 - 29 September 2020 - Supporting Australians overseas - Keneally

Question reference number: 18

Senator/Member: Kristina Keneally

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 October 2020

Question:

On 21 August the Prime Minister said that he had tasked the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs and Defence to bring forward measures to support Australians overseas.

- a) What measures have been brought forward by the department to support Australians overseas?
 - i. When were these measures brought forward and what agencies were consulted in their development?

Answer:

The Department of Defence has not brought forward measures to support Australians overseas. Defence has provided advice on options in support of other agencies.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Q19 - 29 September 2020 - timing of flight cap briefs- Keneally

Question reference number: 19

Senator/Member: Kristina Keneally

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 October 2020

Question:

For each of the following, please provide the relevant dates the brief was prepared, the title of the brief, and to whom the brief was provided to:

- a) Briefs prepared for Ministers on the impact of introducing the international flight cap, before Prime Minister announced the cap on 10 July 2020.
- b) Briefs prepared internally in your Department for SES members on the impact of introducing the international flight cap, before Prime Minister announced the cap on 10 July 2020.
- c) Briefs prepared for Ministers on the impact of the international flight cap, from 10 July 2020 to 24 September 2020.
- d) Briefs prepared internally in your Department for SES members on the impact of international flight cap, 10 July 2020 to 24 September 2020.
- e) Briefs prepared for Ministers on options for the Commonwealth to provide additional support to the States to manage quarantine for international arrivals other than providing ADF personnel from 10 July 2020 to 24 September 2020.
- f) Briefs prepared internally in your Department for SES members on options for the Commonwealth to provide additional support to the States to manage quarantine for international arrivals

Answer:

Defence did not prepare briefs in relation to the above issues.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Q21 - 29 September 2020 - Supporting Stranded Australians - Keneally

Question reference number: 21

Senator/Member: Kristina Keneally

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 October 2020

Question:

Is your agency aware of any Australian Government policy, process or procedure that is in place to ensure that stranded Australians will be prioritised over other potential entrants to Australia?

- a. If yes:
 - i. Can you name those policies, processes or procedures?
 - ii. When did these policies, processes or procedures come into effect?
- b. If no:
 - i. Are any policies, processes or procedures being prepared to ensure that stranded?

Answer:

Defence is aware of the Australian Government's commitment to support Australians that wish to return to Australia. We understand the Prime Minister's expectation that returning Australian nationals and permanent residents take priority when utilising quarantine capacity.

Defence is aware that the Australian Government is considering a number of options for the return of Australians, including through commercial and facilitated flights.