

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: Ruby Princess

Senator: Keneally

Question reference number: 0173

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 August 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. When and how was the first SES-level Departmental Official first made aware that:
 - a. An Agriculture Biosecurity Officer failed to follow *the National Protocol for managing novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) risk from cruise ships* by failing to administer *Traveller with Illness Checklists* to ill passengers?
 - b. An Agriculture Biosecurity Officer filed a Routine Vehicle Inspection form which falsely listed the number of ill passengers onboard the *Ruby Princess* and the symptoms they were displaying?
 - c. Australian Border Force Officers failed to follow the *National Protocol for managing novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) risk from cruise ships* by allowing passengers to disembark before pratique had been granted by a biosecurity officer, and only after appropriate assessments had been made in consultation with the relevant health authorities?
 - d. An Australian Border Force Officer incorrectly read a medical form and falsely reported that isolated passengers onboard the *Ruby Princess* had returned negative results to COVID-19 screening?
 - e. As a result of these errors, ill passengers onboard the *Ruby Princess* with active cases of COVID-19 were allowed to disembark without entering quarantine?

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not accept the premises implicit in the logic of Senator the Hon Kristina Keneally's question.

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: Ruby Princess

Senator: Keneally

Question reference number: 0174

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 August 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. When and how was the Secretary first made aware that:
 - a. An Agriculture Biosecurity Officer failed to follow *the National Protocol for managing novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) risk from cruise ships* by failing to administer *Traveller with Illness Checklists* to ill passengers?
 - b. An Agriculture Biosecurity Officer filed a Routine Vehicle Inspection form which falsely listed the number of ill passengers onboard the *Ruby Princess* and the symptoms they were displaying?
 - c. Australian Border Force Officers failed to follow the *National Protocol for managing novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) risk from cruise ships* by allowing passengers to disembark before pratique had been granted by a biosecurity officer, and only after appropriate assessments had been made in consultation with the relevant health authorities?
 - d. An Australian Border Force Officer incorrectly read a medical form and falsely reported that isolated passengers onboard the *Ruby Princess* had returned negative results to COVID-19 screening?
 - e. As a result of these errors, ill passengers onboard the *Ruby Princess* with active cases of COVID-19 were allowed to disembark without entering quarantine?

Answer:

Please refer to the response to Question on Notice 0173.

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: Ruby Princess

Senator: Keneally

Question reference number: 0175

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 August 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. When and how was the Prime Minister's Office first made aware that:
 - a. An Agriculture Biosecurity Officer failed to follow *the National Protocol for managing novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) risk from cruise ships* by failing to administer *Traveller with Illness Checklists* to ill passengers?
 - b. An Agriculture Biosecurity Officer filed a Routine Vehicle Inspection form which falsely listed the number of ill passengers onboard the *Ruby Princess* and the symptoms they were displaying?
 - c. Australian Border Force Officers failed to follow *the National Protocol for managing novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) risk from cruise ships* by allowing passengers to disembark before pratique had been granted by a biosecurity officer, and only after appropriate assessments had been made in consultation with the relevant health authorities?
 - d. An Australian Border Force Officer incorrectly read a medical form and falsely reported that isolated passengers onboard the *Ruby Princess* had returned negative results to COVID-19 screening?
 - e. As a result of these errors, ill passengers onboard the *Ruby Princess* with active cases of COVID-19 were allowed to disembark without entering quarantine?

Answer:

Please refer to the response to Question on Notice 0174.