

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

Written Question on Notice, 6 August 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000188

"No Jab, No Pay" and "No Jab, No Play" policies of the Australian Government

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

Vaccine incentives:

1. Has the Department previously performed modelling on the efficacy of cash, tax or other financial incentives to promote vaccinations - including those related to the "No Jab, No Pay" and "No Jab, No Play" policies of the Australian Government?
 - a.) If yes, please provide to the committee.

Answer:

The 'No Jab, No Pay' (NJNP) initiative was introduced on 1 January 2016. It tied eligibility for Commonwealth family assistance payments to immunisation requirements under the National Immunisation Program and removed conscientious objection and vaccination objection on non-medical grounds as valid exemptions from immunisation requirements. In addition to Commonwealth NJNP legislation, which is administered by the Department of Social Services, some states have legislated immunisation requirements for attendance at childcare and preschool, known as 'No Jab, No Play'. A summary of these arrangements is at: www.ncirs.gov.au using the search term 'no jab no pay'.

In 2020, the Department of Health commissioned the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) to assess the effectiveness of NJNP on the catch-up vaccinations of older children and adolescents during the first two years of the initiative. The research found that the linking of vaccination status with family assistance payments was associated with catch-up vaccination activity, particularly in families of lower socio-economic status.

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

Written Question on Notice, 6 August 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000192

Meetings with representatives of any Rapid COVID Antigen test manufacturers

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

Rapid tests

1. Have any officials of the Department of Health met with representatives of any Rapid COVID-19 Antigen test manufacturers?
 - a.) If so, which manufacturers have Department officials met?
 - b.) When the first meeting for each manufacturer?
 - c.) How often were these meetings?
 - d.) Have any procurement deals for these rapid tests been signed?

Answer:

In vitro diagnostic device manufacturers, suppliers, and industry representatives have met with officials throughout the pandemic to discuss products including specimen collection devices, laboratory-based testing platforms, rapid point of care finger prick antibody detection devices and rapid point of care nasopharyngeal specimen antigen detection devices. Manufacturers include Becton Dickinson, bioMérieux, Roche Diagnostics, Abbott Diagnostics, Hough Pharma, Bioclect, Rhinomed Ltd, MD Solutions, Pantonic Health, Surescreen, Atomo Diagnostics and the peak industry body, Pathology Technology Australia.

In early August 2021, the Department approached suppliers of all ARTG listed rapid antigen tests to urgently secure an initial volume for the National Medical Stockpile for the purposes of a trial in residential aged care facilities in New South Wales. Abbott Diagnostics, Becton Dickinson, Hough Pharma, Pantonic Health and Roche Diagnostics were amongst the suppliers selected to provide tests to the National Medical Stockpile.