

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Written Question Received: 11 September 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000632

Modelling informing health response to COVID-19 pandemic

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

In relation to these comments by Minister Hunt reported in the Australian on 8 August about Victoria's COVID-19 modelling:

We were given the high-level modelling, and the best advice I had last night from the Department of Health was that they hadn't received the underlying data and assumptions...

...We would like to not only receive it as a national government, as an Australian government, but we believe that all assumptions, all elements should be published.

a. Has the Commonwealth Government published up-to-date versions of all modelling used to inform its health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the underlying data and assumptions?

b. If no, please provide this modelling to the committee

Answer:

The comments of Minister Hunt were reported in The Australian on 8 September.

The modelling undertaken for the Commonwealth Government is National Cabinet committee-in-confidence and cannot be provided. It is a longstanding practice not to disclose information about the operation and business of the National Cabinet and its committees, including when the matter went to National Cabinet, who attended, and what form of submission was provided, as to do so could potentially reveal the deliberations of the National Cabinet, which are confidential.

Details of the modelling being produced for the Commonwealth Government, and the methods used, which can be shared publicly is provided on the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity website at: www.doherty.edu.au/about/reports-publications