

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: Measures taken to evacuate Australians from Wuhan and the Diamond Princess

Senator: Keneally

Question reference number: 0229

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Please provide a detailed explanation of the measures take to evacuate Australians from Wuhan and the Diamond Princess, and your agency's role. Please include the following information:

- a. How many Australians were evacuated and placed in quarantine in each facility?
- b. What were the total costs to Government for the evacuation?
 - i. What was the cost to your agency for the evacuation?
- c. Please provide a detailed outline of the legislative framework/Act used to implement quarantine for these evacuations, and your agency's involvement in implementing quarantine.
- d. Please provide any details of cooperation with States/Territories to implement these evacuations and quarantine by your agency.
 - i. Please include details of any contracts / costs that your agency commissioned the State / Territory to deliver.
- e. Please indicate which agency was responsible for the following – and your agency's relationship / work with these agencies on these topics:
 - i. Managing repatriation flights
 - ii. Managing quarantine facilities
 - iii. Managing the public health aspects of quarantine
- f. Please provide a list of any private contractors, consultants or service providers that were used by your agency to facilitate the evacuation and quarantine of these Australians. Please include the following information:
 - i. Nature of the service being provided
 - iv. Value of the contract
 - v. Name of the private contractors, consultants or service provider

vi. Date the contract between the private contractor, consultant or service provider was signed

Answer:

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is the lead agency for the repatriation of Australians overseas.

The Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet (PM&C) provided the Prime Minister's Office with information regarding the repatriation flights.

DFAT managed repatriation flights. The Australian Border Force (ABF) facilitated border and immigration clearance processes at the border. The Department of Health, in conjunction with state and territory authorities, managed the public health aspects of quarantine.

PM&C participates in regular whole-of-government meetings led by the respective agencies on these matters.