

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, 1 October 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000258

Casual contract references

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

2. With reference to evidence provided by Professor Nick Coatsworth to the Committee on 21 September 2021, can the Department please provide:
 - a.) The nature of the “casual contract” that Professor Coatsworth has with the Department of Health, including whether the contract is with an agency that represents Professor Coatsworth.
 - b.) A list of all associated Austender contract reference numbers.
 - c.) The total cost of Professor Coatsworth's appearance in federal government advertising related to COVID-19.
 - d.) The total cost of any contracts that Professor Coatsworth has held with the Commonwealth related to COVID-19.
 - e.) Any conflicts of interest that Professor Coatsworth has declared as part of his casual contract arrangements.
 - f.) Whether Professor Coatsworth's casual contract with the Department remains ongoing.

Answer:

- a.) Dr Coatsworth was employed as a Deputy Chief Medical Officer to support the Department's Chief Medical Officer. During his employment, he was identified to take part in an advertising campaign. This was not the basis of the employment.
- b.) Not applicable, Dr Coatsworth was engaged as employee, who agreed to work on an external Department of Health campaign.
- c.) Details of Dr Coatsworth's remuneration are confidential.
- d.) Details of Dr Coatsworth's remuneration are confidential.
- e.) Dr Coatsworth completed a declaration of interest as is required by all the Department's Senior Executive Service and equivalent staff. As per the *Privacy Act 1988*, the Department is not able to disclose a copy of this.
- f.) Dr Coatsworth's contract ceased on 8 October 2021.