

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

27 April 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000084

Has there been any other changes to the vaccine program?

Spoken

Hansard Page number: 30

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

CHAIR: In a question on notice I've got vaccine arrangements at \$3.3 billion. After the announcement of the extra Pfizer doses, the question on notice was updated to \$3.8 billion. Is there any other change to the vaccine arrangements that has been a component of that change?

Ms Edwards: If you would allow us, we could take that as a comment because it would be a breach of our contractual arrangements to give any indication of the cost of the additional Pfizer vaccines.

CHAIR: Would it be a breach to tell me whether or not, outside of the extra Pfizer doses, there has been any other change to the vaccine program?

Ms Edwards: With your indulgence, I will take that on notice. I'd like to get some legal advice before I answer that. We do not want to jeopardise the contractual arrangements with Pfizer.

Answer:

The Department cannot comment directly on the individual costs of vaccines or give any indication which would allow such information to be extrapolated due to commercial in confidence restrictions.