

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

26 May 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000283

Question Subject: Maritime vessel health report - Fremantle WA

Type of Question: Spoken

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Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

CHAIR: Okay. I'm sure I heard you say, 'Good.' It has docked at Fremantle with reports of six positive COVID cases and potentially more to come. When did you become aware of this?

Prof. Murphy: At lunchtime today, at the AHPPC meeting. The Western Australian Chief Health Officer informed us of this event.

CHAIR: (A) The ship docked on 22 May, according to media reports. Is that correct?

Prof. Murphy: All I know is that the Western Australian Chief Health Officer informed us that there was a livestock ship that had some crew on board who had tested positive and that they were working out how to deal with them and deal with the ship, but that's all the information I have at the moment.

CHAIR: (B) Under the Biosecurity Act you're the Director of Human Biosecurity, and ships docking in Australian ports are required to provide health reports to the federal department of agriculture. Did that occur?

Prof. Murphy: Again, I don't have any further information other than what I've told you. We could take all of that on notice for you and provide information, but all I have is that very preliminary information told to me at lunchtime today.

Answer:

(A) The *Al Kuwait* docked at Fremantle Port on 22 May 2020.

(B) The *Al Kuwait* provided a pre-arrival Report to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment in the Maritime Arrivals Reporting System.