

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

23 April 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000018

Question Number: 09

Question Subject: COVID-19 Briefings

Type of Questions: Question in Writing

Questioner: Senator Gallagher

Question:

On what dates in January 2020 did the Chief Medical Officer provide COVID-19 briefings to (a) the Minister for Health (b) the Prime Minister (c) the National Security Committee and (d) the Cabinet.

Answer:

a) The Chief Medical Officer provided regular, near daily briefings to the Minister for Health in January 2020 on coronavirus and related matters.

b) Friday 24 January 2020 and Saturday 25 January 2020.

c) & d) It is a longstanding practice not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet and its committees, including when a matter went to Cabinet, who attended, and what form of submission was provided, as to do so could potentially reveal the deliberations of the Cabinet, which are confidential.