

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: Establishment of working groups

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0025

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 27 May 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Is the NCCC considering establishing further working groups? If so, what will the working groups be focused on and how will they be established?

Answer:

The establishment of further working groups will be a matter for the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission and the Australian Government.

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: List of proposals, proponents and contracts established by the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0026

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 27 May 2020

Number of pages: 3

Question:

- a. Please provide a detailed list of proposals and the proponents received by the NCCC to date.
- b. Please provide a list of all other contracts that have been established by the National Covid-19 Coordination Commission?

Answer:

Since its establishment on 25 March 2020, the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (the Commission) has engaged with stakeholders representing a broad cross-section of business and community sector interests.

The Commission maintains an enquiries mailbox, which is listed on the Commission's website, to enable interested stakeholders to contact the Commission directly to raise issues, ask questions, provide offers of assistance or submit ideas or proposals for consideration.

The Commissioners also receive enquiries and approaches directly from stakeholders, as they draw on their extensive experience and networks in their particular areas of focus.

The Commissioners work independently across Australia to mobilise and coordinate public, private and not-for-profit stakeholders in these areas.

The proposals received by the Commission cover key sectors impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, including agriculture, building and construction, drought and flood recovery, conservation and land management, supply chains, health, energy resources, and the not-for-profit sector. Proposals range from troubleshooting, offers of assistance, and ideas for economic recovery to improve the longer term prosperity, productivity and resilience of the Australian economy. Proposals have been provided from peak bodies, large businesses, small and medium-sized enterprises, not-for-profit organisations and individuals.

The proponents range from individuals in the community writing on behalf of themselves or their community interests through to businesses who are seeking government assistance or peak bodies raising concerns or ideas around their sector and broader cross jurisdictional issues.

Economic recovery proposals the Commission has seen include:

- stimulus measures for the building, construction and electrical sectors
- support and tax assistance for Australian charities
- sustainability, conservation and clean energy innovations
- an Australian Medicines Manufacturing Future Fund to support Australian researchers.

Offers of assistance received include:

- safety personal protective equipment and uniform supply specialists offering to assist with providing scrubs
- assistance in mass manufacturing ventilators
- assistance with identifying a number of suppliers who can supply personal protective equipment items for Australia and Indonesia
- software organisations offering a recruitment platform that can quickly and effectively create a marketplace that matches job seekers with employers seeking workers
- contact tracing infrastructure solutions.

In addition, troubleshooting issues and problems that have been raised with the Commission include:

- eligibility and exceptions for the JobKeeper payments
- reopening of beauty salons and sanitisation processes
- international travel and students.

A list of all other contracts established by the Commission is as follows:

| Contract Party | Description | Contract Value inclusive of GST | Start date | End date |
|-----------------------------|--|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Boston Consulting Group | Business administration | \$500,000.00 | 04-May-20 | 04-Jun-20 |
| Acton, Jennifer Mary | Specialist Technical Advice | \$83,000.00 | 01-May-20 | 30-Sep-20 |
| The Trustee for Myube Trust | Labour Hire Services for Executive Assistant to NCCC Chair | \$73,000.00 | 30-Mar-20 | 22-Sep-20 |
| Andrew Liveris | Special Adviser – Travel costs | \$5,000.00 | 01-Apr-20 | 22-Sep-20 |

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|---|--|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Reed, James Alan T/A Resolve Strategic | Social Policy Research | \$541,750.00 | 07-Apr-20 | 30-Jun-20 |
| Commtract Communication Services Pty Ltd | Creative, Design and Editorial Services | \$42,000.00 | 05-May-20 | 30-Sep-20 |