

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
Inquiry into the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Written

009 – 06 September 2021

Topic: Vaccine negotiations

Senator Katy Gallagher

Question

1. What was the Department's involvement in negotiating the "swap" of 500,000 doses of COVID-19 (Pfizer) vaccine from the Republic of Singapore?
2. When did negotiations commence?
3. Which party initiated the negotiations?
4. Were any diplomatic or other non-financial commitments made by the Commonwealth to secure COVID-19 vaccines from the Republic of Singapore?
5. What was the Department's involvement in negotiating the "swap" of 4,000,000 doses of COVID-19 (Pfizer) vaccine from the United Kingdom?
6. When did negotiations commence?
7. Which party initiated the negotiations?
8. Were any diplomatic or other non-financial commitments made by the Commonwealth to secure COVID-19 vaccines from the United Kingdom?

Answer

1. The Department worked closely with the Department of Health to negotiate the dose sharing arrangement and arrange delivery of the vaccines. The Department of Health is the contracting party for the Australian Government.
2. 18 August
3. Singapore first proposed the dose sharing arrangement to Australia.
4. Under the swap arrangement, Australia will supply 500,000 Pfizer doses to Singapore in December.

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5. The Department worked closely with the Department of Health to negotiate the dose sharing arrangement and arrange delivery of the vaccines. The Department of Health is the contracting party for the Australian Government.
6. 19 August
7. Australia first proposed the dose sharing arrangement to the UK.
8. Under the swap arrangement, Australia will send four million Pfizer doses to the UK from Australian supplies in late 2021.