

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Written Question - 10 July 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000399

COVIDSafe app

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

Has the Department received reports from any state and territories about how many times COVID-safe app data has been successfully downloaded and used for contact tracing? If yes:

- a. Please provide a breakdown by state/territory based on the latest available reports
- b. How many times has data from the COVID-19 safe app enabled state and territory authorities to perform contact tracing where it would not have otherwise been possible to do so

Answer:

As at 15 July 2020, the Department of Health has not received reports from the States and Territories about how many times COVIDSafe app data has been successfully downloaded and used for contact tracing. The Department is currently awaiting legal advice to inform which information it can legally request from the States and Territories to contribute to COVIDSafe reporting and evaluation. Once this advice has been provided, the Department will be working with the States and Territories to develop an internal reporting framework.

The *Privacy Act 1988* is the legislation under which COVIDSafe app data is currently managed. Under this legislation, the Department does not have access to any information contained within the data store. The data store administrator, the Digital Transformation Agency, is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the system, and can access information it contains for this purpose. In regards to the data store administrator producing reports, s94D(2)(f) states that in the case of a use of COVIDSafe app data by the data store administrator, the use is for the purpose of, and only to the extent required for the purpose of, producing de-identified statistical information about the total number of registrations through COVIDSafe.