

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency

Topic: Community involvement in decision making regarding the lock down status of communities.

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0149

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Is NIAA aware of whether the communities themselves have participated in decision-making regarding the lock-down status of their communities, whether there is community opposition and how these decisions are made? Please provide details of this to the Committee.

Answer:

State and territory governments are responsible for:

- the identification of areas and implementation of the Remote Travel Restrictions arrangements under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- requests to lift these arrangements and preparation for a response to an outbreak of COVID-19 in a community rests with state and territory governments.

State and territory governments have engaged, where possible, with communities and community representative groups, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector, Land Councils and Community Councils, to inform decision making, including the lifting of restrictions in response to specific community preferences.