



Australian Government

Department of Health

Secretary

Senator Katy Gallagher
Chair
The Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Gallagher

Thank you for your letter of 23 September 2021 requesting the modelling that underpins the work being undertaken by the Commonwealth, states and territories in relation to health system capacity for managing COVID-19 cases and outstanding Questions on Notice (QoNs) directed to the Department.

The Australian Government maintains the view that deliberations of National Cabinet should remain confidential. This includes information received by the National Cabinet. This is consistent with longstanding practice on Cabinet confidentiality.

The Department continues to work through QoNs received from the Committee, despite our focus on the national response to the pandemic. I note 83 of the 677 QoNs received remain outstanding. We will make every effort to have the outstanding responses returned to the Committee as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely

Dr Brendan Murphy

27 September 2021