

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Written Question received 21 August 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000532

Process by the ACQSC

Written

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Question:

Could you explain the process you are following in assessing each facility's preparedness and how it's different to a self-assessment process?

Answer:

The process the Commission is using to assess a facility's preparedness for a possible outbreak of COVID-19 involves conducting an assessment contact with an approved provider of a service under the Commission's monitoring functions. This may include a short notice visit, an unannounced visit, a telephone contact, a request for information such as outbreak management plan or plan for continuous improvement in relation to the service, against the Aged Care Quality Standards.

A self-assessment survey is also a form of assessment contact. However, the process of self-assessment is different because the survey tool is designed to help guide a service's own assessment of readiness against best practice and undertake a critical check of their outbreak management plan.

The findings of monitoring activities, including self-assessment outcomes and other intelligence received such as complaints, all inform the Commission's understanding of the readiness of a facility for a possible outbreak of COVID-19.