

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

INQUIRY INTO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Services Australia

Topic: Centrelink - Contractors

Question reference number: IQ20-000095

Member: Katy Gallagher

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 July 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In relation to the decision by Services Australia to issue the directive reported by the Sydney Morning Herald in this article: <https://www.smh.com.au/business/workplace/centrelink-contractors-living-in-coronavirus-hotspots-stood-down-20200625-p5562f.html>

- a) When was the decision made, and by whom
- b) Were any other agencies consulted, including DSS, APSC and Department of Health
- c) Were any ministerial offices consulted prior to issuing the direction, and if so which ministers and when
- d) Did Services Australia seek any clarification or advice from AHPPC prior to issuing the directive
- e) Was Services Australia aware of the Chief Medical Officer's clarification on Monday that "We're not saying people who are already going to work from those areas shouldn't go to work"?
 - a. If yes, why did it proceed with its directive?
- f) Did Services Australia discuss with Chandler McLeod the issue of paid leave for the contract workers stood down?
- g) Have any casual Services Australia staff been stood down? If so how many and have they received any paid leave?

Answer:

Services Australia did not issue any directive to stand down staff in all or any of the six Victorian local government areas (LGAs) in metropolitan Melbourne (Hume, Casey, Brimbank, Moreland, Cardinia and Darebin) that have recently become known as the Victorian "hotspots."