

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Inquiry into Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Written Question on Notice, 6 August 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000180

AHPPC first briefing

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

Noting the Administrative Appeals Tribunal determination of 5 August 2021 in Rex V. Scott:

1. On which date did the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) first brief the National Cabinet on COVID-19?

(Senate Select Committee on COVID-19: QON document reference #217)

Answer:

Disclosure of briefings and dates would reveal the deliberations of National Cabinet. The Government maintains the view that deliberations of National Cabinet should remain confidential. This is consistent with longstanding practice on Cabinet confidentiality.

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Suppression strategy not an eliminations strategy

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Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

Noting the Administrative Appeals Tribunal determination of 5 August 2021 in Rex V. Scott:

2. In relation to the comment made by the Victorian Health Minister on ABC Radio National Breakfast on 24 June that "National Cabinet agreed to a suppression strategy not an eliminations strategy". When was this decision taken by National Cabinet?

(Senate Select Committee on COVID-19: QON document reference #242)

Answer:

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

On 16 July 2021 the Prime Minister said that 'National Cabinet has agreed to a suppression strategy for COVID-19 with the goal of no community transmission.' The Prime Minister's media statement is available at: www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-8.