

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Written Question on Notice - 21 July 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000408

Review of hotel quarantine arrangements:

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

With reference to the review of hotel quarantine arrangements by Ms Jane Halton AO announced by the Prime Minister on 10 July 2020:

- a. When did the review commence.
- b. When will the review conclude.
- c. What are the review's terms of reference.
- d. How will the review be conducted.
- e. Did the National Cabinet approve the appointment of Ms Halton. If not, who approved the appointment.
- f. Is Ms Halton conducting the review in her capacity as a National COVID-19 Coordination Commissioner.
- g. Will Ms Halton receive remuneration for the review in addition to the \$118,000 she is contracted to receive in her capacity as a part-time National COVID-19 Coordination Commissioner for the period 23 March to 22 September 2020. If so, can details of that remuneration be provided.
- h. Is Ms Halton a non-executive director of Crown Resorts Limited.
- i. How many returned travellers has Crown Resorts Limited accommodated under COVID-19 hotel quarantine arrangements.
- j. Will Ms Halton review arrangements, including
 - i. infection prevention and control training of hotel and security staff;
 - ii. compliance with infection prevention and control requirements; and
 - iii. evidence of community cases attributed to cases in international travellers in hotel quarantine;at Crown Resorts Limited accommodation. If so, how will Ms Halton's conflict of interest be managed. If not, how will arrangements at Crown Resorts Limited accommodation be reviewed.

Answer:

a. When did the review commence?

The review commenced on 13 July 2020.

b. When will the review conclude?

The review will conclude on 30 September 2020.

c. What are the review's terms of reference?

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee recommended and National Cabinet agreed that the review should address:

- Infection prevention and control training (clinical, hotel and security staff)
- Compliance with infection prevention and control requirements (clinical, hotel and security staff)
- Evidence of community cases attributed to cases in international travellers in hotel quarantine (including cases in hotel and security staff)
- Rates of compliance with testing
- Legislative or contractual basis for mandatory testing
- Management of suspected and confirmed cases
- Provision and effectiveness of support services (medical, mental health, social services, financial support)
- Management of vulnerable people
- Management of cultural diversity
- Logistics arrangements
- Administrative arrangements
- Changing capacity requirements related to changes in border restrictions

The review team will travel to each state and territory and speak with people involved in the end-to-end hotel quarantine process as appropriate. The review will be conducted in parallel with National Cabinet's work toward a nationally uniform model of charging for hotel quarantine.

d. How will the review be conducted?

The Review will be conducted in two phases.

Phase one: research and data collection from states and territories, including a limited number of site visits.

Phase two: research and analysis, including travel to quarantine sites to view end-to-end process and conduct interviews with staff and returned travellers.

e. Did national cabinet approve the appointment of Ms Halton to lead the review?

Yes.

f. Is Ms Halton conducting the review in her capacity as a Commissioner of NCCC?

No. Ms Halton is conducting the review at the request of National Cabinet.

- g. Will Ms Halton receive remuneration for the review in addition to the \$118,000 she is contracted to receive her capacity as a part-time National COVID-19 Coordination Commissioner for the period 23 March to 22 September 2020. If so, can details of that remuneration be provided?

Contractual arrangements for Ms Halton to cover her review of hotel quarantine will be made public on AusTender in due course.

- h. Is Ms Halton a non-executive director of Crown Resorts Limited?
Yes.

- i. How many returned travellers has Crown Resorts Limited accommodated under COVID-19 hotel quarantine arrangements?

Details of hotel quarantine arrangements, such as the name of hotels included, have been sought from each state and territory. These details have not yet been provided.

- j. Will Ms Halton review arrangements, including
- i. infection prevention and control training of hotel and security staff;
 - ii. compliance with infection prevention and control requirements; and
 - iii. evidence of community cases attributed to cases in international travellers in hotel quarantine;
- at Crown Resorts Limited accommodation.

As outlined in the response to question 1c, the review will look at hotel quarantine arrangements in all states and territories. As outlined in 1i, details of hotels included in the quarantine arrangements has not yet been provided.

If so, how will Ms Halton's conflict of interest be managed.

Ms Halton's conflict of interest with Crown Resorts Limited will be managed under the terms of the relevant contractual arrangements governing her review of hotel quarantine arrangements.