

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Inquiry into the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Response to question on notice at public hearing on Wednesday 28 July 2021 – Associate Professor Deborah Gleeson

Senator Rice asked: *Can you talk us through what the Public Health Association's involvement was in the consultation process for RCEP?*

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) closely followed the negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership from their initiation in 2012 through to the signing of the Agreement and beyond.

We made a submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 29 May 2015 which is available on the DFAT website on the RCEP submissions page:

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/not-yet-in-force/rcep/submissions>

Representatives from PHAA attended:

- An official stakeholder event at the 18th Round of negotiations in Manila in May 2017
- Stakeholder consultations at the 26th Round of negotiations in Melbourne in June-July 2019

We believe that representatives from PHAA also attended several briefing/consultation sessions about RCEP held by DFAT over the years 2012-2020 (either in person or by teleconference). Over this time we attended many consultation sessions about various trade agreements, however we have not kept formal records of our involvement.