

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 received 7 August 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000462

Question Subject: Percentage of the surge workforce available to states and territories are nurses

Type of Question: Written

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Question:

What percentage of the surge workforce available to states and territories are nurses?

Answer:

The Department of Health estimates that about 34 per cent of the surge workforce available to states and territories are nurses, including registered and enrolled nurses. In addition to this:

- the Australian Defence Force deployed 161 personnel to support the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre , of which 40 (25 per cent) were nurses
- of the 42 personnel deployed by Australian Medical Assistance Teams, 21 were nurses (50 per cent)
- of the 76 personnel deployed as part of National Aged Care Emergency Response Teams and interstate teams, 11 were registered nurses, nine were enrolled nurses and three were assistants in nursing (30 per cent).

In Victoria, additional nursing outreach into aged care facilities has been provided under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response, as well as the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services employment of a hub model, which provides workforce support to residential aged care facilities within the catchment area of each local health district.