

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Ms Samantha Hogg's National COVID-19 Commission Biography

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: 0169

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 14 August 2020

Number of pages: 2

Question:

With reference to Ms Samantha Hogg's NCC biography released 27 July 2020:

1. Why was Ms Hogg's membership of the federal government's Infrastructure Australia board omitted from her NCC biography?
2. How are any conflicts of interest between Ms Hogg's position on the federal government's Infrastructure Australia Board and her role on the Prime Minister's NCC being managed?

Answer:

The NCC Advisory Board's website, which was updated on 27 July 2020, states that Ms Hogg is a Non-Executive Director of Infrastructure Australia. Please see here: <https://pmc.gov.au/ncc/who-we-are>.

The NCC Advisory Board sits within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and will continue to be subject to appropriate governance protocols and processes. These include mechanisms whereby Commissioners make declarations about their private interests and relationships to PM&C, and a review of Commissioners' potential for conflicts of interest at the start of each board meeting, as is the practice for company boards.

Where a potential conflict might arise, appropriate arrangements will be put in place, such as recusal of the affected member of the NCC Advisory Board from specific deliberations.

Each NCC Advisory Board member has provided an undertaking to not make improper use of information they obtain in the course of their official duties as a member of the Commission, or otherwise use their position as a member of the Commission, in order to gain, or seek to gain, a benefit or advantage for themselves or for any other person.

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Mr Bao Hoang's National COVID-19 Commission Biography

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: 0170

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 14 August 2020

Number of pages: 2

Question:

With reference to Mr Bao Hoang's NCC biography released 27 July 2020:

1. What financial, pecuniary or management interests does Mr Hoang hold in Revita, an aged care services provider?
2. Has Mr Hoang disclosed Revita's relationship with Healthcare Australia, noting that Revita was acquired by Healthcare Australia in 2018? If yes, can a copy of that declaration be provided?
3. Was the Department aware that Healthcare Australia is currently contracted by the Department of Health to provide surge staffing in aged care? (CN3696885)
4. How are any conflicts of interest between Mr Hoang's business interests in aged care and his role on the NCC being managed?

Answer:

The members of the National COVID-19 Commission (NCC) Advisory Board cover a broad range of sectors and bring with them extensive experience and networks, to bring a business perspective to the economic recovery. Mr Bao Hoang brings experience and expertise in business across the health and hospitality industries, and is working with other Commissioners to support the Australian Government's agenda for economic recovery.

The NCC Advisory Board members' declarations are provided in confidence and contain sensitive personal information, the disclosure of which may unreasonably infringe the privacy of the individuals concerned.

The Department of Health's contract with Healthcare Australia (CN3696885) is publicly available on the AusTender website.

The NCC Advisory Board sits within PM&C and will continue to be subject to appropriate governance protocols and processes.

These include mechanisms whereby Commissioners make declarations about their private interests and relationships to PM&C, and a review of Commissioners' potential for conflicts of interest at the start of each board meeting, as is the practice for company boards.

Where a potential conflict might arise, appropriate arrangements will be put in place, such as recusal of the affected member of the NCC Advisory Board from specific deliberations.

Each NCC Advisory Board member has provided an undertaking to not make improper use of information they obtain in the course of their official duties as a member of the Commission, or otherwise use their position as a member of the Commission, in order to gain, or seek to gain, a benefit or advantage for themselves or for any other person.