

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, 27 August 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000208

Contracts for Rapid Antigen Test - AusTender CN3806967

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

With reference to AusTender CN3806967 engaging Respond Global Pty Ltd under the description contract description "Delivery of a Scalable Pilot of Rapid Antigen Test" –:

1. Does the evaluation relate to Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19?
2. If yes to Question 1:
 - a.) Which rapid antigen tests are being piloted? Does this include any domestically manufactured rapid antigen tests?
 - b.) Please provide information on the nature of the pilot – ie. is it being trialled with specific high-risk workforces, age cohorts, etc?

Answer:

1. Yes. This evaluation relates to Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19.
- 2.a As at 2 September 2021, the Roche *SD Biosensor* SARS-CoV-2 rapid antigen test is being used as part of the pilot. Currently, the pilot does not include any domestically manufactured rapid antigen tests. It is anticipated that as the pilot expands, more rapid antigen testing suppliers will also supply their tests for use.
- 2.b The Department is undertaking a pilot of rapid antigen testing screening in aged care across areas of high concern in New South Wales. The purpose of the pilot is to test the logistics and effectiveness of using rapid antigen testing devices to screen staff and visitors prior to entering a facility. The pilot does not include aged care residents, and participation is voluntary.