

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, 14 January 2022

PDR Number: IQ22-000003

Victorian Aged Care Response - MYEFO allocation

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

With reference to the \$1.3 million allocated in MYEFO 2021-22 for the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre:

1. How long is it anticipated the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre will continue operation?
2. What is the expected profile of the related expenditure over the forward years?
3. What functions will the allocated funding support?

Answer:

1. The Victorian Aged Care Response Centre (VACRC) measure is currently funded to 30 June 2022. Funding has been extended on two occasions as required to deal with pandemic, and a further review of the continuing need for the VACRC will be made prior to June 2022.
2. See response to question one.
3. Funding allocated in the 2021-22 financial year funds a core set of staff to continue the operation of VACRC, with the ability to scale up in the event of escalating rates of transmission in the community and in residential aged care facilities. The VACRC continues to coordinate Commonwealth and Victorian Government support for residential aged care providers in Victoria that are affected by a COVID-19 outbreak, including, but not limited to: workforce, in-reach pathology, cleaning, catering, infection control, PPE, transfer of residents to hospital, communications, clinical support and identification of close contacts.