

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

23 July 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000152

How a home care resident in NSW contracted COVID-19

Written

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Senator: Rachel Siewert

Question:

Prof. Kelly: Chair, if I may, there's an update on one of the previous questions from Senator Siewert. We understand there is one home care resident in the current New South Wales outbreak so far.

Senator SIEWERT: Just on that one: do we know how that home care resident contracted COVID?

Prof. Kelly: No, I don't.

Senator SIEWERT: Can you take it on notice?

Prof. Kelly: I will take it on notice.

Answer:

Anglicare at Home Services

- The son of a client of Anglicare at Home Services tested positive on 25 June 2021.
 - the client received services on 22 and 25 June 2021 and her son was present during these services;
 - the client later tested positive, on 1 July 2021, and passed away on 16 July 2021. The Department was notified of the death on the 22 July 2021;
 - given the relative timing of the two positive tests, it is likely the client contracted COVID-19 from her son; and
 - two staff members were identified as close contacts. Both received negative tests and were subsequently cleared to return to work.

Uniting Home Care, Sydney

- A client of Uniting Home Care, Sydney tested positive on 19 July 2021 (source unknown).
 - the client received services on 12 and 14 July 2021;
 - two staff members were identified as close contacts. Both staff members isolated, were asymptomatic and returned negative test results.