

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Department of Health**

**Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**

**Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**7 August 2020**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000460**

**Current capacity of surge workforce**

**Written**

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Question:**

What is the current capacity of the surge workforce available to states and territories for aged care?

**Answer:**

The surge workforce pool is not a static pool of workers. The following is the Department of Health's estimate of national capacity:

- Aspen Medical: 1,800 clinical, care and ancillary staff available or being credentialed.
- Mable: 6,022 clinical and care staff registered on the platform.
- HealthCare Australia: 3,300 clinical, care and ancillary staff.
- Recruitment, Consulting and Staffing Association (RCSA): Over 71,000 clinical and care staff are registered on the books of 17 of RCSA's largest healthcare workforce providers.

Clinical health staff provided through health services are also assisting residential aged care facilities, with 4,718 shifts filled as at 23 September 2020.

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak as significant as the current Melbourne outbreak, it is expected worker availability would be impacted by healthcare workers being deployed to the health system to support outbreaks in hospitals, supporting testing services and isolation in hotel accommodation. In addition, many workers may elect not to work in COVID-19 positive workplaces.