

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Written question received 29 September 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000671

Return of Australians home by Christmas

Written

Senator: Kristina Keneally

Question:

On 13 September 2020, Minister for Health, Greg Hunt said, "We want to ensure that every Australian who wants to come home is home by Christmas."

a. Please provide the details of the briefings the Minister had from the Department that provided him with the confidence to claim that it was logistically possible for the Australian Government to "ensure that every Australian who wants to come home is home by Christmas".

Answer:

From 28 March 2020, incoming travellers entering Australia have been required to quarantine for 14 days at their point of arrival. Quarantining of returning Australians is led by state and territory Governments with enforcement through state and territory police.

States and territories are working with the Commonwealth to increase the number of international flights to their jurisdiction to enable more Australians to return home.

Specific briefing on logistics has been provided by the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the basis of their responsibility for issues in relation to the repatriation of Australians.