

CORONAVIRUS — HOTEL QUARANTINE CONTRACT — HEALTHCARE AUSTRALIA

**157. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Noting that the stated purpose of the panel is to provide strategic oversight of the management of WA's quarantine arrangements, why has such a significant decision been made without seeking its input and advice, and when will the panel meet?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

It is not correct to say that it provides strategic oversight. It is correct to say that it provides ongoing advice to the oversight team. This is a commonsense solution to make sure that we have the workforce available for our healthcare teams. I would have thought that the priority of our health system would be self-evident, Leader of the Opposition. Obviously, this is a good way to continue to make sure that we have as many nurses and doctors as possible available to our health system. It is a reasonable step to take, and it is one that in no way compromises the activities or the great quality of care provided in those hotels, but it does make sure that we can have everyone available to work in our health system.