

QUARANTINE ADVISORY PANEL

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

I have a supplementary question. When this was a key recommendation and accepted by the government in its response, why has it taken so long to finalise such an important part of the government's response to COVID management in relation to quarantine hotels?

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

I want to address the premise of the question and the tone of it—that is, to suggest that the government is somehow ignorant of expert advice about hotel quarantine and that we are not acting on that advice. Obviously, Professor Weeramanthri provided an expert report to us, supported by other panellists in his inquiry, and they have continued to inform us about how we can continue to improve hotel quarantine. We have a continuous improvement program learnt from expert advice and testimony and with experience, and we continue to make sure those improvements are implemented. In addition to that, the member will be aware that over the past few months we have been focused on a particular element of the Weeramanthri report, which is the ventilation components and how they impact the quality and safety of the services we provide to the guests staying at the hotel and the staff working in those hotel arrangements. The member will be aware that we have made a range of decisions about that, including the retirement of three of what are normally termed our “SHICC hotels”, because that gave us cause to make sure they were taken out.

**Mr R.S. Love:** What sort of hotels?

**Mr R.H. COOK:** SHICC.

**Ms M.J. Davies:** Maybe explain that! It did not sound good, minister! On the ground I am not sure that translates in *Hansard*!

**Mr R.H. COOK:** The member for Vasse will be familiar with this nomenclature, which means the State Health Incident Coordination Centre, which is SHICC. It is language that we have used for some 15 months now and obviously has become part of the vernacular when it comes to our hotel quarantining and our response to the pandemic. The member will be aware that there have been significant upgrades and improvements to the way we deliver that element of our response to the pandemic, and this is another element that will take its place as we continue to improve the hotel quarantining system.