

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Wednesday 11 August 2021

Hon Colin de Grussa MLC to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

My question without notice of which some notice has been given is to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

I refer to the Quarantine Advisory Panel (QAP), the ten member advisory panel appointed on 27 May 2021 to oversee hotel quarantine in WA, and the advice received from the Minister for Health in response to questions 377 and 378 asked by Hon Mia Davies MLA yesterday in the other place and I ask:

1. How many times has the QAP met, detailing for each meeting:
 - a. The dates they met at least once;
 - b. Whether quorum was achieved or not;
 - c. The number of conflicts of interest recorded; and
 - d. Whether external advisers or observers attended and who those individuals were?
2. How many times has the QAP provided concurrent advice to the Minister for Health or the Chief Executive Officer, and the form in which that advice was provided?
3. Are communiques and minutes of the QAP meetings publicly available? If yes, where can these located? If these documents are not publicly available, will the Premier please table these documents in the interests of rolled gold transparency?

Answer

(1)

(a) 14 June 2021 and 27 July 2021.


(b) Yes – both meetings.

(c) Nil – both meetings.

(d) Nil – both meetings.

(2) As stated in section 4.5 of the *Quarantine Advisory Panel – Terms of Reference* (Legislative Assembly tabled paper #256), the QAP may, in limited circumstances and if considered necessary and appropriate, provide concurrent advice to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health and the Minister for Health.

(3) I table the attached minutes of the QAP meeting on 14 June 2021, which have been finalised.





Name: Quarantine Advisory Panel - Minutes			
Location: Department of Health, DG Conference Room, 189 Royal Street, East Perth			
Date	14/06/2021	Time	17:30 to 18:56
Meeting #	One (1)	Teleconference	Yes
Minutes	[REDACTED]		

Record of Attendance	
Ms Sue Ash AO (SA)	Independent Chair
Dr David Russell-Weisz (DRW)	Director General Department of Health
Dr Andrew Robertson (AR)	Chief Health Officer
Commissioner Chris Dawson (CD)	State Emergency Coordinator
Ms Emily Roper (ER)	A/ Director General Department of Premier and Cabinet
Ms Nicki Godecke (NG)	A/ Director General Department of Finance
Professor Allen Cheng (AC) - Teleconference	Public Health expert
Professor Alison Jones (AJ)	Toxicology expert
Mr Rob McDonald (RMCD)	Former South Metropolitan Health Service Board Chair
Mr Garry Taylor (GT)	A/Executive Director Safety, Freight and Business Management Systems, Public Transport Authority
Ms Bridget Stonier-Gibson (BSG)	Secretariat, Quarantine Advisory Panel

Item	Item Description
1.	Welcome and introductions
	After formal introductions the Chair welcomed the attendees and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country. The Quarantine Advisory Panel (QAP) will be a forum for discussion and recommendation to the HMA, building on work completed to date. DRW presented an overview of the quarantine system since inception to date. There Panel discussed hotel quarantine, noting operational issues, working with key agencies, hotel ventilation in older hotels, the impact of international flight caps and the requirement of flexibility to manage unpredictable arrivals within the quarantine system.
1.1	ACTION: BSG to circulate the PowerPoint presentation to the panel.
2.	Conflict of Interest Declaration
	No conflicts of interest were raised.
3.	Terms of Reference
	The Terms of Reference endorsed by the State Disaster Council (SDC) were noted by the Panel.
	The Chair noted the Terms of Reference.



4.	Meeting Schedule
	No issues were raised with the meeting schedule, a monthly meeting will take place for the duration of one - two (1-2) hours. Additional meetings will be held should issues arise.
5.	Risks
	<p>The Chair invited the panel to raise any risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel noted the work completed to date and raised performance, risk and compliance monitoring, processes, decisions, and controls to be reviewed, considering the strategy for the future. • It was agreed an understanding of transmission in the quarantine environment is required prior to consideration of new quarantine measures as the societal expectations are zero percent transmission. • The Panel discussed quarantine for Western Australia (WA) which is subject to global turbulence, managing new variants, efficacy of vaccination, and a vaccinated population. • The Panel discussed data constraints and the impact on the Panel's ability to provide timely, evidence-based advice. • The Panel discussed their role in providing advice to the Hazard Management Agency (HMA), noting the inter-relationships of government at all levels. <p>AR informed the Panel there is national discussion in the health arena, AHPPC sub-committees are modelling the impact of vaccine coverage, risk of the various types of quarantine, unvaccinated from high risk countries, and a vaccinated population.</p> <p>The Chair summarised the risks raised by the Panel and proposed key areas to be addressed:</p> <p>System performance – Tarun Weeramanthri's report provides clear information that complete data is critical to the assessment of risk and end-to-end assurance. The Panel are to be clear on QAP purposes to improve strategic data linkages, not business as usual.</p> <p>Communication – Engagement and compliance from the community, dealing with people, workforce issues, the purpose of the quarantine system, and mental health issues associated with 14 days of quarantine and the capacity to comply. Create a system for people and shape this into an agenda, supporting people moving forward providing assurance of solid objectives.</p> <p>DRW advised the panel to consider the breadth, scope of what the QAP will consider and importance of communication, and the focus for the next six (6) months.</p> <p>The Chair identified the challenge of balancing external imperatives and the Panels responsibilities to the HMA proposing a three (3) month reporting cycle.</p>



5.1	ACTION: SA (Chair) and BSG will provide a draft scope of work. Media interest was discussed, the Chair informed the panel all media enquiries are to be directed to BSG and the first formal media is 15/06/2021, the communique will confirm the panel has met.
5.2	ACTION: SA (Chair) to send communique to panel (out of session) for review.
5.3	ACTION: Members to consider questions posed by the Director General of Health and provide comment on what the scope of the QAP should be, and on what they consider to be highest priority.
6.	Other Business
	The next meeting is Tuesday 29/06/2021 at 09:00.

Approved ☒

Not Approved ☐

Noted ☐

Comments:

Signed

Date

22/7/21

Sue Ash AO

Chair, Quarantine Advisory Panel