

28 January 2021

Mr Aaron Harper MP  
Chair, Health and Environment Committee  
Queensland Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

By email: [HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Harper,

**RE: Question taken on notice - Health and Environment Committee - Inquiry into the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020**

Question: Members infected with COVID-19

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information as a question taken on notice during the appearance of Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) Officials before the Committee on Friday 22 January.

The following information is provided.

As indicated in both the QNMU's written submission and appearance before the Committee, the QNMU broadly supports the direction of the *Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020*. The robust COVID-19 pandemic response in Queensland specifically and across Australia more generally has limited the health, social and economic impact of the pandemic more effectively than many overseas jurisdictions. Front-line health workers are a particularly vulnerable group in any pandemic situation and thanks to aggressive containment measures, contact tracing, effective use of personal protective equipment and public awareness, only a small number of healthcare workers have been infected with COVID-19 here in Queensland and fortunately there have been no deaths in this group.

While Queensland Health would have detailed records of all health care workers infected by COVID-19, a review of QNMU records indicates that community or work-related transmission has affected Queensland healthcare and aged care workers at the following sites:

- Princess Alexandra Hospital (1 nurse infected)
- North Rockhampton Nursing Centre (1 nurse infected)
- West Moreton Hospital and Health Service (8 staff infected)
- Karinya Place aged care facility Laidley (1 nurse infected)
- Bolton Clarke Pinjarra Hills aged care facility (1 nurse infected)
- A Gold Coast nurse volunteering in Victoria also became infected

The majority of those nurses infected would be QNMU members. A core role of the QNMU is supporting our members in relation to issues arising from their work in the health and aged care sectors. The QNMU Connect portal, member servicing team and QNMU website resources have

assisted members in relation to a range of COVID-19 issues over the course of the pandemic. As you would be aware, member organisations such as the QNMU rely, in large part, on our members contacting us for assistance. Where able we also reach out to members to offer assistance should this be possible.

For any issues relating to this response, please do not hesitate to contact Daniel Prentice, Professional Research Officer by email [REDACTED] or phone [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Beth Mohle  
Secretary