

Question on Notice

No. 572

Asked on 12 May 2021

MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) the total number of (i) Queensland Hotels currently under contract for use as a quarantine facility) and (ii) people who are currently quarantining in these facilities, (b) the proportional breakdown of those currently in quarantine who are (i) international foreign citizen visitors, (ii) international foreign citizen workers, (iii) returning Australian citizens/residents and (iv) visitors/workers from interstate and (c) the number of people currently contracted to provide quarantine services in Queensland, including security?

ANSWER

Queensland's hotel quarantine system has been a key feature of Queensland's success to date in suppressing COVID-19 and has provided an effective setting to ensure that people returning from overseas enter the Queensland community safely.

To date, the majority of COVID-19 cases in Queensland have been detected among people arriving in Queensland from overseas. As at 4 June 2021, of the 1,629 total cases in Queensland, 1,293 have been overseas acquired.

There are currently 16 quarantine hotels in the network. There are approximately 70 hotels that have been approved for use in Queensland.

Over 94,000 people have been accommodated in hotel quarantine in Queensland to date and the majority of these people were returned travellers. As at 6 June 2021, a total of 3,077 persons were accommodated in hotel quarantine.

The end-to-end process to onboard and manage quarantine hotels and to support people in quarantine is overseen and delivered through multi-agency arrangements, jointly led by Queensland Health and Queensland Police Service.

Queensland government does not utilise contract staff to provide quarantine services. In Queensland, quarantine facility workers are provided by:

- Queensland Health
- Queensland Police Service
- Australian Defence Force.

Individual quarantine hotels are responsible for the employment of hotel staff and their usual contractors (maintenance etc).

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for determining which international arrivals are permitted to enter Queensland by air. The Commonwealth Government does not share this data with the Queensland Government. Questions seeking specific details relating to the categories of people entering Australia should be directed to the Commonwealth.

It is expected that the need for quarantine accommodation will remain until a large number of the Queensland population has been vaccinated and the risk of widespread outbreaks has subsided.