

Question on Notice
No. 163
Asked on 15 March 2022

Mr S Andrew asked Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent Four Corners investigation, alleging that negligent medical procedures by the Queensland Health and North West Hospital Health Service, led to the deaths of at least three girls and a woman at the remote community of Doomadgee—

Will the Premier advise if the Premier will be asking the Minister for Health to stand down pending a full and independent investigation of these deaths, and any others of a similar nature that have occurred in Doomadgee?

ANSWER:

I deeply sympathise with the families in Doomadgee who have lost loved ones through rheumatic heart disease.

On 4 March 2022, the Coroner announced an inquest into the three deaths. The inquest will be held from 18 July 2022 in the Cairns Magistrates Court. The Queensland Government will await the findings of this inquest and take appropriate action where necessary.

On 4 March 2022, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (the Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP), released the Ending Rheumatic Heart Disease: Queensland First Nations Strategy 2021-2024 (the Strategy).

The Queensland Government has committed \$4.5 million over three years to implement the Strategy. In addition to this, a further \$2.88 million has also been allocated for specific actions in 10 communities across northern Queensland, where data shows some of the highest rates of rheumatic heart disease and acute rheumatic fever and where need is the greatest.