

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 125**  
**Asked on 5 March 2024**

**Ms S Bolton** asked Premier (Hon. S Miles)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the reconsidering of previous government policies—

Will the Premier commission an independent inquiry into Queensland's COVID-19 pandemic responses as part of identifying and addressing the ongoing impacts, and to inform preparations and responses for any future pandemics?

ANSWER:

The way Queenslanders handled the COVID-19 pandemic saved lives and kept our economy strong.

The Queensland Government response was based on the expert health advice of Queensland's Chief Health Officer and national experts. Our effective COVID-19 response meant shorter and fewer lockdowns than other jurisdictions, resulting in a reduction in the broader social, health, and economic effects of the pandemic.

A range of COVID-19 response reviews have already been undertaken, both within and outside of government, including by the Queensland Audit Office, with a view to ensuring Queensland is well prepared should another pandemic or similar event occur.

On 21 September 2023, the Prime Minister, the Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, announced a comprehensive, independent inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Queensland Government has been participating in the inquiry, including providing a submission. The inquiry is expected to make recommendations to improve response measures in the event of future pandemics and the Queensland Government will carefully consider the findings when they are released later in 2024.