



COVID-19 Response Inquiry

Internal communication plan

Communication contact officer	s22
Policy contact officer	s22

Why is this important?

- A comms plan is needed to inform and support staff following the release of the COVID-19 response inquiry.
- The purpose [of the inquiry](#) was to identify lessons learned to improve Australia's preparedness for future pandemics.
- The release of the inquiry findings will likely be emotive to staff who worked in the department during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We understand the CDC and Corporate Operations Group have the most staff who worked directly on COVID-19 and are therefore likely to be most impacted by the report findings.

Timing

- It is anticipated the report will be provided to the Government on 25 October. However, the timing of its public release, and that of the Government's response to it, is unknown.

Target audience

- All staff
 - iCDC, COG, HPRG and AACG staff to receive targeted comms from the relevant Deputy Secretary acknowledging the high impact on staff in these areas.

Call to action

- s22

Key messages / Talking points

Inquiry purpose and our role

- The COVID-19 pandemic was the most significant crisis that Australians and the world have faced in many decades.
- The Inquiry's purpose is improvement, not attributing blame.
- There are lessons to be learned to improve Australia's preparedness for future pandemics – it's important to reflect.



- Reflection and lessons learned don't detract from the immense efforts many of our staff put in during COVID-19.
- We acknowledge the challenges and support the decisions of our people during that time.
- It was a difficult time, with immense pressures, and we were working in a fragmented system.
- We were also working at a time when the evidence about COVID-19 was evolving at a very fast pace. As the evidence changed, the measures in place were updated, as appropriate.
- Where we made mistakes, we did the best we could with the information, resources and timeframes we had available to us at the time.
- We remember what you did – and you should be very proud of it.
- The lives of many thousands of Australians were saved because of the measures put in place to respond to the pandemic.

s22



Inquiry findings

- TBC pending release – some specific but short lines on key findings and how this might impact staff.

s22





s22

Communication activities

Note that timings assume report is released 25 October.

Timing	Channel/activity	Audience	Responsible
25 October (or report release date)	Intranet news item <ul style="list-style-type: none">Published on release of the report.Emphasises support for staff and where they can go for help.Promotes information / s22Could include a video from s22	All staff	Corp Comms to draft WHS to clear s22
25 October (or report release date)	s22 all SES email <ul style="list-style-type: none">Email sent to all SES notifying them the report has been released, linking to the news item and asking them to communicate to staff / check in on staff as needed.Include details re booking an in person or virtual debriefing session for all staff.	SES	Corp Comms to draft WHS to clear s22
25 or 26 October (or report release date)	Targeted Dep Sec emails <ul style="list-style-type: none">HPRG – s22AACG – s22COG – s22iCDC – s22NID – s22	Staff in relevant groups.	Corp Comms to draft Relevant EOs to clear, personalise for the group as needed



			and arrange sending
	iCDC Staff Briefing		s22
31 October	Team Health (all staff from s22) Video: s22 addresses the release of the report in his video. He drives staff to the intranet to watch a pre-recorded video with s22 and read the news items. OR: s22 joins s22 'live' and shares key messages.	All staff	Corp Comms to draft TPs based on cleared content.
4 Nov	Optional: This Week all staff newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none">s22	All staff	Corp Comms to draft WHS to clear

Content drafts

Channel/activity	Draft content

Subject: COVID-19 Response Inquiry Findings

Distribution: s47E(d) >

From: s22, Secretary

s22

Exec Connect from Secretary s22



Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Dear colleagues

Earlier today Minister Butler announced the release of the [final report](#) of the [COVID-19 Response Inquiry](#).

In preparing the report, the COVID-19 Response Inquiry Panel examined:

- what worked well
- longer-term repercussions of some policies
- how Australia can make improvements to prepare and protect our country for future infectious disease crises.

We recognise the pandemic was a challenging time for many people, both personally and professionally. Reading the report or engaging with media coverage could be difficult. Our [intranet news item](#) has more information about the release of the report, s22.

The immense efforts of our staff during the COVID-19 pandemic are recognised in the report. They were also recognised today by Minister Butler, and are acknowledged by me, and all of our leaders. The dedication and hard work of our staff saved many thousands of Australian lives.

The first line of the report calls out “Pandemics are predicted to occur on average every 20 years - and the likelihood of us seeing another significant event is growing.” We must ensure we have the right preparedness and response systems in place to manage future public health emergencies.

s22

Regards,

s22

Subject: COVID-19 Response Inquiry – talking points for leaders

Distribution – All SES Health and Aged Care (DL All First Assistant Secretaries and DL All Assistant Secretaries)

From: s22, Acting COO

s22



Dear colleagues

Today the [COVID-19 response inquiry report](#) was released. Below are high level talking points that you might use to discuss the report with your people.

These talking points aim to guide you and your leaders to:

- promote that overall the report findings are positive
- acknowledge the efforts of staff
- s22

You may like to add your own reflections on the report findings, and relevance and impact to your teams.

Talking Points for Senior Leaders

Introduction:

- The purpose of the COVID-19 Response Inquiry was to learn from the experience and improve future pandemic preparedness.
- The final report was released on Tuesday 29 October.
- The first line of the report calls out “Pandemics are predicted to occur on average every 20 years - and the likelihood of us seeing another significant event is growing.”
- We must ensure we have the right preparedness and response systems in place to manage future public health emergencies.

s22

Key findings:

- The report states:
 - “Overall, we believe that people should be proud of what we achieved during the pandemic... We achieved this because we had people who worked unbelievably hard and made difficult decisions.”
- To improve Australia’s preparedness and response systems to manage public health emergencies the report made:
 - 9 guiding recommendations
 - 26 actions for change.
- The report is focused on action required by the Commonwealth to address its systems, processes and capabilities.
- This will be a whole of government effort, with 18 actions directly impacting us.

Reflection and Learning

- Emphasise the importance of reflecting on lessons learned to enhance future preparedness.
- We recognise the challenges faced and support the decisions made by our people. Staff operated within a fragmented system while the evidence about COVID-19 evolved rapidly. As new information emerged, measures were updated accordingly.
- Where mistakes were made, they were made with the best available information, resources, timeframes and intentions.

s22



Regards,

s22



THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 (CTH)
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

From: s22
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: Updated communication for action pls || Covid response inquiry findings communications [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 2:49:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi s22,

Please see below link to updated draft communications from s22 to send to COG staff about the Covid response inquiry findings being released.

s22 [COG Staff Email Covid Inquiry.docx](#)

Kind regards,

s22

s22

Assistant Director, Corporate Communication and Creative Services

Please note, my work days are Monday to Thursday.

Communication Branch

People, Parliamentary and Communication Division | Corporate Operations Group

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: 02 5132 s22 | E: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

From: s22

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 1:41 PM

To: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au); s22
[@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au); s22 [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s22@Health.gov.au); s22
[@Health.gov.au](mailto:s22@Health.gov.au); s22 [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s22@Health.gov.au); s22
[@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)
Cc: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)

Subject: Covid response inquiry findings communications [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi everyone,

In case you are not aware, the covid inquiry findings are being released today at 2pm.

We are currently reworking the communications for your dep sec and will share these with you to tailor and distribute to your Group staff tomorrow morning.

For your awareness, we are working on an all staff email from Blair to go out following the

presser this afternoon.

Kind regards,

s22

s22

Assistant Director, Corporate Communication and Creative Services

Please note, my work days are Monday to Thursday.

Communication Branch

People, Parliamentary and Communication Division | Corporate Operations Group

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: 02 5132 s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

From: s22
To: s47E(d)
Subject: COVID Response Inquiry findings [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 2:28:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Team,

Today, the [COVID-19 response inquiry final report](#) was released. s22

The Inquiry was undertaken to help government learn from the experience of the pandemic and improve our preparedness for future health emergencies.

The final report is large and, overall, the findings were positive. Some of the recommendations and commentary do relate to communication.

I know reading the report or engaging with media or social media coverage of it will be hard for some of you. The report does recognise the incredible effort of our staff during the pandemic response – and so do I. We should all be very proud of what we did and achieved during the pandemic. But, re-visiting what it was to work during that period could be challenging.

s22

Every day I come to work I am excited to work with such professional, excellent and inspiring comms people. We should be proud of how we supported the COVID response... I certainly am.

Cheers

s22

Assistant Secretary, Communication Branch

People, Communication and Parliamentary Division | Corporate Operations Group
 Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: 02 5132 s22 | M: s22 | E: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)
 GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

Making Flexibility Work - if you receive an email from me outside of normal business hours, I'm sending it at a time that suits me. I'm not expecting you to read or reply until normal business hours.

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

From: s22
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: Covid response inquiry findings communications [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 1:40:39 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi everyone,

In case you are not aware, the covid inquiry findings are being released today at 2pm.

We are currently reworking the communications for your dep sec and will share these with you to tailor and distribute to your Group staff tomorrow morning.

For your awareness, we are working on an all staff email from s22 to go out following the presser this afternoon.

Kind regards,

s22

s22

Assistant Director, Corporate Communication and Creative Services

Please note, my work days are Monday to Thursday.

Communication Branch

People, Parliamentary and Communication Division | Corporate Operations Group

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: 02 5132 s22 | E s22 @health.gov.au

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

From: s22
To: s22
Cc: s22; s22; s22; s47E(d)
Subject: For review: COVID-19 report findings [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 12:46:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi s22

For review:

- s22
- [COVID-19 inquiry intranet news item.docx](#)
- s22 [all SES Email COVID-19 Inquiry v2.docx](#)

s22 has indicated an ASM followed up with Team Health is the preferred approach at this stage.

Proposed summary of comms:

Product	Release date
ASM from s22	Tues, after presser
Intranet news item	Tues, after presser
s22 all SES email	Tues, after presser and s22 email
Direct comms from relevant Group heads	Wednesday
Team Health	Wed or Thurs, at discretion of Sec office (video from s22 link to news item, link to s22)



Cheers,

s22

s22

Director, Corporate Communication and Creative Services
Communication Branch

People, Parliamentary and Communication Division | Corporate Operations Group
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

 s22 |
  s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

From: s22
To: s22; s22; s22
Cc: s22
Subject: FW: COVID Inquiry comms [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 10:17:00 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Bumping the below templates up in your inbox – this is the shell email to add in personalisation for Dep Sec's:

- Email to COG staff (note we will use this as a template for iCDC, HPRG, AACG and PCCG – EA's have been advised this is coming) ☐ s22 [COG Staff Email Covid Inquiry.docx](#)

We'll send templated versions shortly.

s22 – we spoke to s22 re this coming to them, will let you talk to them further, or let me know if you need anything else from me.

s22

From: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)>
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 10:16 AM
To: s22 [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s22@Health.gov.au)>
Cc: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)>; s22 [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s22@Health.gov.au)>; s47E(d) [@health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@health.gov.au)>
Subject: COVID Inquiry comms [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning s22

Hope you had a lovely weekend

As discussed, please see below COO cleared drafts of messaging to support the release of the COVID Inquiry findings:

- Intranet news item ☐ [COVID-19 inquiry intranet news item.docx](#)
- All SES email ☐ s22 [all SES Email COVID-19 Inquiry v2.docx](#)
- Email to COG staff (note we will use this as a template for iCDC, HPRG, AACG and PCCG – EA's have been advised this is coming) ☐ s22 [COG Staff Email Covid Inquiry.docx](#)

We will see s22 tmrw for Team Health and I'm sure continue to discuss nuance of the rollout and any related announcements in the coming days.

Cheers,

s22

s22

Director, Corporate Communication and Creative Services
 Communication Branch

People, Parliamentary and Communication Division | Corporate Operations Group
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

 s22  s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

From: s22
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: For clearance by COB Friday 25/10 - COVID-19 inquiry final report [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 24 October 2024 6:13:51 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thanks. I've made some small changes to each link.

s22

s22 (Ms/she/her)

First Assistant Secretary
 People, Communication and Parliamentary Division

Corporate Operations Group
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: 02 5132 s22 | E s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)
 Location: Yaradhang Building Level 8
 PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

From: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 5:39 PM
To: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)
Cc: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au); s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au); s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au); s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)
Subject: For clearance by COB Friday 25/10 - COVID-19 inquiry final report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Please clear the below comms products to support the release of the COVID-19 inquiry final report:

- Intranet news item [COVID-19 inquiry intranet news item.docx](#)
- All SES email s22 [all SES Email COVID-19 Inquiry v2.docx](#)
- Email to COG staff (note we will use this as a template for iCDC, HPRG and AACG – EA's have been advised this is coming) s22 [COG Staff Email Covid Inquiry.docx](#)

Also note:

- AACG comms team are supporting s22 with curated comms as needed.
- s22
- We expect the report release date to be Wed 30/10.

Cheers,

s22

s22

Director, Corporate Communication and Creative Services

Communication Branch

People, Parliamentary and Communication Division | Corporate Operations Group

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care



s22



s22

[@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

From: s22
To: s22
Cc: s22; s47E(d) s22
Subject: RE: Team Health filming next week [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 11:45:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi all,

Having just spoken further with s22 and s22 will not need to join s22 for the video filming. s22.

s22 Wed or Thurs AM filming would still be ideal, if we can manage it.

Best,

s22

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 10:56 AM
To: s22 @health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @Health.gov.au>; s47E(d) @health.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>
Subject: Team Health filming next week [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

We are expecting the COVID-19 inquiry report to drop next Wed 30/10. Is it possible to move Team Health filming from Tuesday arvo to Wed or Thursday so s22 can speak to the report findings?

s22

Cheers,

s22

s22

Director, Corporate Communication and Creative Services
Communication Branch

People, Parliamentary and Communication Division | Corporate Operations Group
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

 s22 |  s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)

From: s22
To: s22
Cc: s22; s47E(d)
Subject: COVID Inquiry comms [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 28 October 2024 10:15:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Good morning s22

Hope you had a lovely weekend

As discussed, please see below COO cleared drafts of messaging to support the release of the COVID Inquiry findings:

- Intranet news item [COVID-19 inquiry intranet news item.docx](#)
- All SES email [all SES Email COVID-19 Inquiry v2.docx](#)
- Email to COG staff (note we will use this as a template for iCDC, HPRG, AACG and PCCG – EA's have been advised this is coming) [COG Staff Email Covid Inquiry.docx](#)

We will see s22 tmrw for Team Health and I'm sure continue to discuss nuance of the rollout and any related announcements in the coming days.

Cheers,

s22

s22

Director, Corporate Communication and Creative Services
Communication Branch

People, Parliamentary and Communication Division | Corporate Operations Group
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

 s22 |  s22 [@health.gov.au](#)

From: s22
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: RE: COVID-19 Inquiry findings [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 10:41:34 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hi s22

All planning is on basis CDC announced at same time as Report released. Agree really important to engage in content of report and the forward looking rather than backward looking focus.

Cheers

s22

s22 [She / Her]

First Assistant Secretary Australian CDC Establishment Taskforce



Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: +61 02 6288 s22 E: s22 @health.gov.au
 This email comes to you from Ngunnawal Country

Location: Scarborough House Level 5
 PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia



From: s22 @Health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 10:32 AM
To: s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>;
 s22 @health.gov.au>; s22
 s22 @health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: RE: COVID-19 Inquiry findings [SEC=OFFICIAL]

(now with s22 included)

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 10:32 AM
To: s22 @Health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 [redacted]@health.gov.au>; s22 [redacted]@health.gov.au>

Subject: RE: RE: COVID-19 Inquiry findings [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Had a read of it, and it makes more sense why s22 [redacted], I think what this is missing however is the actually detail on the content of the report. I think its really important we don't just talk about the fact that it is released, but engage with the content.

s22 [redacted] – is it likely that the announcement of last weeks decision will be made upon release of the report?

Thanks, s22 [redacted]

From: s22 [redacted]@Health.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 10:24 AM

To: s22 [redacted]@Health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 [redacted]@health.gov.au>; s22 [redacted]@health.gov.au>

Subject: RE: COVID-19 Inquiry findings [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22 [redacted]

Just wanted to let you know, that we are working on an internal communications to support staff following the release of the COVID-19 inquiry findings. [Here is a link to the comms plan](#) for your reference.

As part of the comms we have proposed that s22 [redacted] might consider having s22 [redacted] join him for his video message next week to address the release of the report. Are you okay to discuss this with him and let us know if you'd like our support?

We are expecting the report to be released this coming Friday 25 October but won't know until it's actually released.

If you need any further information, feel free to reach out to s22 [redacted] or myself.

Kind regards,

s22 [redacted]

s22 [redacted]

Assistant Director, Corporate Communication and Creative Services

Please note, my work days are Monday to Thursday.

Communication Branch

People, Parliamentary and Communication Division | Corporate Operations Group

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: 02 5132 s22 [redacted] | E: s22 [redacted]@health.gov.au

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

From: s22
To: s22
Cc: s22 ; s22 ; s22
Subject: Draft Emails - COVID-19 Inquiry Report Announcement [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 12:54:32 PM
Attachments: [Announcement - COVID-19 Inquiry Report and Establishment of the Australian Centre for Disease Control.msg](#)
[SES Materials - COVID-19 Inquiry Report announcement.msg](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi s22

As promised please find attached draft emails for s22 (with thanks to s22 for pulling together with s22 team):

- All Staff message (refined based on chats with s22)
- SES only email with relevant comms products

I've added the final version from s22 to the relevant emails (noting that they are classified as Official).

I will have the additional thank you email through shortly.

Very happy to chat or make additional edits,

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Secretary, Implementation Branch
 Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control Establishment Taskforce



Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: (02) 5132 s22 | M. s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

EA: s22 | T: (02) 5132 s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au



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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

From: s22
To: [News](#)
Cc: s22; s47E(d); s22
Subject: RE: FAS Cleared: Cosmos query - CDC extension [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 2:30:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

OK ... s22

From: News <news@health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 2:30 PM
To: s22 @health.gov.au; News <news@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @health.gov.au; s47E(d) @Health.gov.au; s47E(d) @health.gov.au; s22 @Health.gov.au; News <news@health.gov.au> s22 @health.gov.au; s22 @Health.gov.au
Subject: RE: FAS Cleared: Cosmos query - CDC extension [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hey s22

Cosmos magazine is still an independent media publication, we've responded to them heaps

s22
Media Unit, Communication Branch
 Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: 02 6289 s22 | s22 E: news@health.gov.au

Unless stated otherwise, this information is provided on a background basis and should not be attributed.

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

From: s22 @health.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 2:27 PM
To: News <news@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @health.gov.au; s47E(d) @Health.gov.au; s47E(d) @health.gov.au; s22 @Health.gov.au; News <news@health.gov.au> s22 @health.gov.au; s22 @Health.gov.au
Subject: RE: FAS Cleared: Cosmos query - CDC extension [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Media colleagues ... can you plz let the MO know the website/journalist seems to be part of CSIRO? It may be a factor in whether we respond ... s22

From: s22 @Health.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 2:22 PM
To: s22 @health.gov.au

Cc: s22 [redacted]@health.gov.au; s47E(d) [redacted]
 [redacted]@Health.gov.au; s47E(d) [redacted]@health.gov.au;
 s22 [redacted]@Health.gov.au; News <news@health.gov.au>; s22 [redacted]
 [redacted]@health.gov.au>

Subject: FAS Cleared: Cosmos query - CDC extension [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22 [redacted] and News

Please see FAS cleared response below for your progression.

Enquiry:

- s47F from Cosmos here - I called a few minutes ago. I'm covering the Australian CDC for our website, ahead of the release of the COVID-19 Inquiry Response Report this Friday.
- I've got a couple of questions - would anyone at the Department be available for a short interview, or respond over email? Ideally it would be great to have a response by 5pm AEDT today, but 1pm tomorrow would also be fine if necessary.

- Following the delivery of the COVID-19 Response Report, s22 [redacted]

- [redacted]

Proposed response (same as earlier):

s22 [redacted]

- A phased approach will allow for the lessons of the COVID pandemic to inform the design of the Australian CDC. These lessons are currently being examined by the independent inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, led by Robyn Kruk AO. The Inquiry is due to deliver its report on 25 October 2024.
- s22 [redacted]

Thanks

s22 [redacted]

Executive Officer to s22 [redacted]
 First Assistant Secretary
 Australian CDC Establishment Taskforce



Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: +61 2 5132 s22 [redacted] | M: s22 [redacted] | E: s22 [redacted]@Health.gov.au

This email comes to you from Ngunnawal Country
Location: Scarborough House, Level 5
 PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia



From: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 2:18 PM
To: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@Health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@health.gov.au>; s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@health.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted] <[redacted]@Health.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted] <[redacted]@health.gov.au>; s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@Health.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For Clearance by 4pm: Cosmos query - CDC extension [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s22 [redacted] below is fine. Interesting everyone thinks report will be released on Friday! I would drop reference to the s22 [redacted] but keep rest of sentence.

H

From: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@Health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 2:12 PM
To: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@health.gov.au>; s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@health.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted] <[redacted]@Health.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted] <[redacted]@health.gov.au>; s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@Health.gov.au>; s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@Health.gov.au>
Subject: For Clearance by 4pm: Cosmos query - CDC extension [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

Hi s22 [redacted]

We have received another enquiry from CSIRO Science Journo and we're proposing to provide same response as earlier today (as agreed by CDC Comms).

Below for your clearance by **4pm today:**

Enquiry:

- s47F [redacted] from Cosmos here - I called a few minutes ago. I'm covering the Australian CDC for our website, ahead of the release of the COVID-19 Inquiry Response Report this Friday.
- I've got a couple of questions - would anyone at the Department be available for a short interview, or respond over email? Ideally it would be great to have a response by 5pm

AEDT today, but 1pm tomorrow would also be fine if necessary.

- o Following the delivery of the COVID-19 Response Report, s22

- o

Proposed response (same as earlier):

s22

- A phased approach will allow for the lessons of the COVID pandemic to inform the design of the Australian CDC. These lessons are currently being examined by the independent inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, led by Robyn Kruk AO. The Inquiry is due to deliver its report on 25 October 2024.

- s22

Thanks

s22

Executive Officer to s22
First Assistant Secretary
Australian CDC Establishment Taskforce



Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: +61 2 5132 s22 | M: s22 | E: s22 [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s22@Health.gov.au)

This email comes to you from Nggunawal Country

Location: Scarborough House, Level 5
PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia



From: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)>

Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 2:06 PM

To: s22 [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s22@Health.gov.au)>; s22

s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @Health.gov.au>; s47E(d) @Health.gov.au>;
 s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For Response by 3pm: Cosmos query - CDC extension [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Same response is fine from me.

From: s22 @Health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 2:04 PM
To: s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>;
 s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>;
 s22 @Health.gov.au>; s47E(d) @Health.gov.au>;
 s22 @Health.gov.au>
Subject: For Response by 3pm: Cosmos query - CDC extension [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

Hi All

Please see below media enquiry for written response, I suggest we provide the same response – can you please indicate your preference if not, by 3pm? s22 FYI...

- s47F from *Cosmos* here - I called a few minutes ago. I'm covering the Australian CDC for our website, ahead of the release of the COVID-19 Inquiry Response Report this Friday.
- I've got a couple of questions - would anyone at the Department be available for a short interview, or respond over email? Ideally it would be great to have a response by 5pm AEDT today, but 1pm tomorrow would also be fine if necessary.

- Following the delivery of the COVID-19 Response Report, s22

○

Proposed response (same as earlier):

- A phased approach will allow for the lessons of the COVID pandemic to inform the design of the Australian CDC. These lessons are currently being examined by the independent inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, led by Robyn Kruk AO. The Inquiry is due to deliver its report on 25 October 2024.

- s22

Happy to discuss.

Thanks

s22

Executive Officer to s22
 First Assistant Secretary
 Australian CDC Establishment Taskforce



Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: +61 2 5132 s22 | M: s22 | E: s22 @Health.gov.au

This email comes to you from Ngunnawal Country

Location: Scarborough House, Level 5
 PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia



From: CDC Enquiries <cdc.enquiries@cdc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 1:57 PM
To: s22 @Health.gov.au
Cc: CDC Enquiries <cdc.enquiries@cdc.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Cosmos query - CDC extension [SEC=OFFICIAL]

H s22

See below media request.

Kind regards,

s22
 Executive Assistant to s22, Assistant Secretary
 Australian Centre for Disease Control Establishment Strategy Branch



Australian Centre for Disease Control Establishment Taskforce
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: (02) 5132 s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

This email comes to you from Ngunnawal and Ngambri country
Location: Scarborough House, Level 5
 PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia



From: s47F <[REDACTED]> @csiro.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 1:52 PM
To: News <news@health.gov.au>; CDC Enquiries <cdc.enquiries@cdc.gov.au>
Subject: Cosmos query - CDC extension

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

s47F from *Cosmos* here - I called a few minutes ago. I'm covering the Australian CDC for our website, ahead of the release of the COVID-19 Inquiry Response Report this Friday.

I've got a couple of questions - would anyone at the Department be available for a short interview, or respond over email? Ideally it would be great to have a response by 5pm AEDT today, but 1pm tomorrow would also be fine if necessary.

- Following the delivery of the COVID-19 Response Report, s22 [REDACTED]

Thank you, and kind regards,

s47F

Science Journalist
 Cosmos | CSIRO Publishing | CSIRO

s47F @csiro.au | s47F | s47F

Kaurna Land

13 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide SA 5000

CSIRO acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, sea and waters, of the area that we live and work on across Australia. We acknowledge their continuing connection to their culture and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

CSIRO Australia's National Science Agency | [csiro.au](https://www.csiro.au)

s22

FOI 25-0083 LD - document 15

Chat Shared +



How's your day been? 😊

I am only now turning my mind to revising the FAQ answers haha

If it's okay with you, I might send it by you for a comms review once I have a go at the substance? Perhaps around 4pm?



s22

2:37 pm

s22



Wednesday, 23 October

s22

9:01 am

Good morning s22 😊 Happy Wednesday! FYI, still aiming to have the FAQs doc to you around 10am this morn 🤗

Page 1 of 22

s22 9:07 am

s22 ...

s22 9:08 am

Of course! 😊 I think until we hear back from s22 on the first tranche, we're working quite steadily 😊 we're aiming to get the FAQs and powerpoint to s22 by midday so it's really just FAQs for this morn
Hope it's fun 😊

s22 10:12 am

s22 the FAQs are with you now 😊 thanks again for offering to review

s22 10:20 am

s22 I can look at the FAQs ...

s22 10:21 am

Okay no worries 😊 Just need to send it to s22 by 12ish so whenever works



s22 11:48 am

Hey s22 😊 We got the first tranche back with minor edits and no edits to MR 😊 have forwarded for vis

s22 11:49 am

Just looking at the FAQs now ...

s22 11:49 am

Okay

s22 11:50 am

Part of it is a bit confusing ...

I'll email u in protected ... 😊



s22 11:57 am

Let me know if my questions in protected make sense / need to be addressed ...

s22 11:57 am

Came back but I think we don't want to overtly address your question as it pre-empts the leg reform

s22 11:59 am Edited

Keep in mind this doc is not necessarily a public-facing doc. In my mind, it could just be to prepare for possible media enquiries etc ...

s22 11:59 am

Will be guided by you on what you suggest

s22 12:01 pm

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 (CTH)
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22 11:59 am
Will be guided by you on what you suggest

s22 12:01 pm

s22

🥰 1

s22 12:03 pm
Great plan 🥰

s22 5:25 pm

Hi s22 🥰 s22

Just sent you an update on protected for action tomorrow morning
have a lovely evening

s22 5:27 pm

I can do it by 11am. s22 ... 🥰

s22 5:27 pm

thanks so much s22 🥰

I'll also flick you through s22 feedback on the MR
just came in

s22 5:27 pm

Ok ...

I don't understand/agree with some of her changes. But she's the boss ... 🥰

🥰 1

s22 5:31 pm

hahahaha

I'll have a look in the morning, my brain is fried

let's discuss then 🥰

s22 5:32 pm

Why delete the word "further" in the first sentence? It's obviously true!

s22 5:33 pm

s22 23/10/2024 5:32 pm

Why delete the word "further" in the first sentence? It's obviously true!

oh golly haha

s22 11:19 am
Just in the third par ... put a comma after "research community"

s22 11:19 am
Can do 😊



s22 5:21 pm

s22 😊 s22 😊

They're now with s22 office - well done 😊

s22 5:28 pm



Friday, 25 October

s22 8:26 am

Happy Friday, s22 😊 Min products now with the Parliamentary so don't expect we'll need to edit until we hear either way with the Inquiry

s22 8:26 am

GR8! And happy Friday to you, too! 😊



s22 11:54 am

How's your friday going s22 😊

s22 11:55 am

OK ... s22 Can I help you? 😊



s22 1:56 am

Still waiting to hear back re Inquiry and re SES clearance 😊

Nothing today so far but maybe on Monday 😊

s22 1:59 am

Monday may be a bit problematic, s22 There is not much I can do about that. But (of course) if I can help out, I will ...

s22 12:09 pm

Thanks for flagging 😊 that's helpful to know.

if we get any MO requests for changes I'll reach out

s22 12:10 pm



s22 12:10 pm

that's the only real thing I would need you for haha

the rest can wait til Tues



Monday, 28 October

s22 8:17 am

→ LN s22 28/10/2024 8:17 am

Happy Monday s22 all the best for the two sessions 😊

s22 8:35 am

😊 Morning

Haha are you confused what s22 means? I think she means SE mocks

s22 8:41 am

→ s22 28/10/2024 8:16 am

s22 [Redacted message content] 😊



My fault ... I forwarded the wrong message!



s22 8:49 am

No worries 😊 I've just checked protected and can see MO feedback came through over the weekend

Edited
I'll have a read this morning and digest what they're after and how I can minimise the impact on you given mock estimates
deadline back to MO is 4pm Tues so might require some work today to get it ready for SES clearance again
will report back and keep you copied in Protected 😊

s22 9:08 am

No substantive changes to Media Release or Min TPs...so it's just the FAQs and you don't need to worry about reviewing those until later today 😊

s22

12:50 pm

Do u want to send to me whatever u want me to look at? There is no guarantee any day this week will be better than today. s22 If I can look at stuff today or early tomo I will ... 😊

s22

:30 pm

I'll send you a version at COB today for you to look at early tomorrow 😊

I am on leave tomorrow so s22 will be the best point of contact

s22



FOI 25-0083 LD - document 15

s22

Chat

Shared



FOI 25-0083 LD - document 15

s22

1:33 pm

Hi s22 I have emailed you the email/letter package and distribution list in protected 😊

s22

3:45 pm Edited

s22 .. do I need to look at anything in protected? 😊



1

s22

3:46 pm

s22

24/10/2024 3:45 pm

s22

.. do I need to look at anything in protected? 😊

No you are all good 😊 Thank you so much for providing feedback earlier!



1

s22 added s22 and 5 others to the chat.

s22 29/10 9:51 am

Morning all. Presser scheduled for 2pm. s22 this morning so no opp to film anything with s22. Suggest we go out with a written message from s22 first today. If we send the text of that to s22 he will fill in the bit about what the report says. s22 travelling this week so message from s22 to ICDC, along with messages from s22 to their groups. They can be in the coming days. Will need to acknowledge some of what the report says - we can do some searching once it is published. I don't know if they are announcing CDC measure today as well.



2

We also need to think about the messaging to our own people esp comms



1

29/10 9:53 am

Hey s22 - we have filming with s22 booked for 3:30pm and I expect that to go ahead. I will reach out to s22 for some TP's on the report findings

s22 29/10 9:53 am

s22 I'm just about to drop in a meeting for 10am on this - s22 did you want to join or just stay updated



3

s22 29/10 9:53 am

happy to join

s22 in a meeting right now with s22 et al. Send him the message and he'll put stuff in

29/10 9:54 am

Thanks

s22 29/10 9:54 am

Yes, go ahead with filming

s22 29/10 9:54 am

Have we got a copy of the report?

s22 29/10 9:56 am

s22 [Redacted]

s22 29/10 9:59 am Edited

s22 29/10/2024 9:51 am

We also need to think about the messaging to our own people esp
comms

s22 do we have an indication on the findings for comms so we can prep messages

s22 29/10 10:00 am

s22 [Redacted]

s22 29/10 12:31 pm Edited

we have social monitoring in place - a summary report will be available for exec at 5 and a full report tomorrow morning

Edited

MO advise triage of media enquiries will be as usual. PMC are still working out their protocol

s22

we have social monitoring in place - a summary report will be available for exec at 5 and a full report tomorrow morning

FOI 25-0083 LD - document 15

Edited

MO advise triage of media enquiries will be as usual. PMC are still working out their protocol

s22

29/10 12:33 pm

s22

s22

29/10 12:34 pm

s22

s22

s22

29/10 1:40 pm

s22

Am I missing something? How can there be a 2pm presser when Question Time is on?

It would be unusual for two ministers to get paired for a press conference!

s22

29/10 1:45 pm

s22

it's not a sitting week s22 🤔 - next week

s22

29/10 1:46 pm

s22

The APH website says both houses are sitting ...

s22 it's not a sitting week s22 🙄 - next week

FOI 25-0083 LD - document 15

s22 29/10 1:46 pm

s22 The APH website says both houses are sitting ...

Link if useful https://www.youtube.com/live/oh_fuSawuGg?si=bW4vvgSRJ4fHfleN



Minister for Health and Aged Care, The Hon...
Press Conference with The Minister for Health and Aged
Care, The Hon. Mark Butler Live from Canberra,...
www.youtube.com



👍 1

s22 29/10 1:48 pm

s22 29/10/2024 1:46 pm

The APH website says both houses are sitting ...

Mind you, I find the APH calendar confusing ...

s22 29/10 1:50 pm

s22 29/10/2024 1:48 pm

Mind you, I find the APH calendar confusing ...

[2024 Parliamentary Sittings](#)

s22 29/10 1:51 pm

s22 My fault! PMC website says not sitting!!

I have just dropped you a line with an urgent request to support us with some topline findings from the COVID Inquiry comms.

s22 29/10 10:19 am

hi s22

I saw your email - thanks. Was just in a meeting and s22 came in.

Will action ASAP now.

29/10 10:19 am

Please let me know if you need anything else from me

Many thanks!

29/10 11:51 am

Hello - sorry, I was offsite at an event and had to travel back.

The lines are great, thanks so much! Just 'comms-ing' them a bit.



s22 29/10 11:52 am

s22 29/10/2024 11:51 am

The lines are great, thanks so much! Just 'comms-ing' them a bit.

Fab. I did pull them from our briefings, so more fit for that purpose rather than messages per se.





s22

29/10 11:52 am

s22

s22

29/10/2024 11:51 am

The lines are great, thanks so much! Just 'comms-ing' them a bit.

Fab. I did pull them from our briefings, so more fit for that purpose rather than messages per se.



29/10 11:52 am

I'm looking for a line that really hones in on the fact we will have an event like this again and that's why we have to reflect - is there anything like that to hand?

s22

29/10 11:58 am

s22

The first line of the report says "Pandemics are predicted to occur on average every 20 years - and the likelihood of us seeing another significant event is growing"

and then "this makes it the right time to consider what we have learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic..."

very much "lessons to guide future actions"... because "they will be needed" vibes

29/10 12:16 pm

Great. Thanks again for your quick input

s22

29/10 9:43 am

You've probably heard this already, but FYI. We can go on the news item this arvo and perhaps we release Team Health tmrw?

→ s22 29/10/2024 9:30 am

s22 has just advised they are releasing the COVID report today - presser at 2pm that will include the CDC announcement. the panel are pre briefing media ahead of that presser

29/10 10:24 am

Just met with s22 etc. we've got a plan, but will of course fit in with your and s22 thoughts. I know at s22 but wanted to let you know we're on it.

s22 29/10 10:25 am

s22 Thanks s22 - I love cabinet

The key here is timing, I think the tone of the emails you sent is bang on.

My main thoughts are around whether we should push for a team health today for the announcement or not

My feeling is that this will be tricky

29/10 10:30 am

Agree - how about a super top level ASM from s22 following the presser, linking to intranet news item. And we say we will follow up in the coming days. Team health could go out Wed, and Dep Sec direct comms to impacted areas also tmrw.

s22 29/10 11:50 am

s22 yeah sounds good



s22

and s22

to the chat.

FOI 25-0083 LD - document 15

29/10 9:47 am

FYI - working with s22 to finalise internal comms.



s22

29/10/2024 9:30 am

s22 has just advised they are releasing the COVID report today - presser at 2pm that will include the CDC announcement. the panel are pre briefing media ahead of that presser



s22

29/10 9:51 am

s22

Thanks, have we let the Dep Sec's know?

s22

29/10 9:51 am

s22

Those not at s22 are aware

Most are at s22

Hi team,

Not for sharing, but just a heads up that the COVID Inquiry report will be released this afternoon.

I know COVID was a rough time for everyone, and particularly for those who worked so hard here at the department.

I wasn't here obviously but I know it took its toll.

s22

I haven't seen it, but I understand it is very long and some of the recommendations may relate to comms.

Just wanted to give you a heads up. Let me know if you need anything!

22/10 2:52 pm

Hi s22 just a quick check in re the COVID comms, will you be able to review by COB?

s22 22/10 2:53 pm

s22

22/10 2:54 pm

Thanks s22

s22

s22 22/10 4:30 pm

s22

[COVID-19 inquiry intranet news item.docx](#)



COVID-19 inquiry intranet news item...

CorporateCommunications > Corporate Co...

22/10 5:14 pm

s22

s22 22/10 5:20 pm

yes thank you- will just do another check with Prime Minister and Cabinet tomorrow on report releasing the event we need to push dates. I have not heard any info to reflect the report being delayed. Either s22 or I will come to you in the am tomorrow - cheers s22

Thursday, 24 October

FOI 25-0083 LD - document 15

s22 24/10 9:53 am

s22

s22

24/10 10:08 am

Ok - latest is now announce Wed. They are working around PM schedule.

I think that's pretty firm!!!

Tuesday, 29 October

29/10 1:57 pm

s22

s22

s22

s22



s22

+24

FOI 25-0083 LD - document 15

s22

29/10 9:35 am

covid inquiry 2pm presser today

s22

+24

s22

28/10 5:35 pm

also, **covid** inquiry due out this week

Page 19 of 22

s22 29/10 1:48 pm

Can you please give me a call thx re: all staff email

29/10 2:03 pm

s22

and we think yes, it should go to portfolio agencies too 🤔

s22 29/10 2:03 pm

thx will do

is link live yet?

29/10 2:04 pm

No - on the way!



s22 29/10 2:05 pm

we are ready to send when that goes live thx 🤔

looks like the report is up? s22 has checked?

29/10 2:10 pm

Got that!

s22 29/10 2:11 pm

Are we good to send now

29/10 2:11 pm

we need the intranet item - 2 secs!

s22 29/10 2:12 pm

Monday, 28 October

FOI 25-0083 LD - document 15

s22 28/10 5:36 pm

s22
Hi, do you know where we are up to with the internal Covid pack?

28/10 7:32 pm

Hi s22 cleared by s22 and with s22 We are filming Team Health tmrw arvo, he is going to speak to it then and we will pivot if not released as s22 is away Wed + Thurs.



s22 28/10 7:51 pm

s22
Is s22 doing his own version?

28/10 8:14 pm

They'll use the template. I also sent s22 TP's for his stand up last week.



Tuesday, 29 October

s22 29/10 2:26 pm

s22
Hi, s22 said that you were putting the links in ML's message and sending it to s22 is that right?

29/10 2:28 pm

Yup, have done 😊



s22 29/10 2:29 pm

s22
All over it, thanks!

Page 21 of 22

s22 29/10 12:48 pm

Hey s22 I'm at home and online. Would you like me to update the content in the various dep sec emails ? Or are you still amending s22 COG all staff email?

29/10 1:39 pm

Go here and scroll down to 'upcoming', you'll see it linked 🤖 <https://www.youtube.com/@AUSParliamentLive>



Australian Parliament House Streaming Po...

Parliamentary proceedings are now live on YouTube! The official channel for live streaming of the House of...

www.youtube.com

s22 29/10 1:41 pm

Thank you

29/10 2:05 pm

Sec office keen to send link ASAP, so let me know when news article is live.

Just go on it 🤖

29/10 2:11 pm

[COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report | PM&C](#)



COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report X

www.pmc.gov.au

s22 29/10 2:14 pm

From: s22
To: s47E(d)
Subject: Happy Monday! [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 28 October 2024 9:46:31 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Final - Community Affairs - 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates Program.pdf](#)
[Draft Strategy on a Page.pdf](#)
[FLYER-One-Health-Wonders-Webinar-2 \(1\).pdf](#)

Good morning friends and happy Project Board Day!

Some work things

There'll be a few big weeks coming up, with quick work to be done.

s22



- We are also still monitoring when an announcement around the COVID-19 Inquiry Report, which was anticipated to be provided to Government last Friday. I will keep you all posted!

s22



s22

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Secretary, Implementation Branch
Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control Establishment Taskforce



Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: (02) 5132 s22 | M: s22 | E: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)

PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

EA: s22 | T: (02) 5132 s22 | E: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)



From: s22
To: [News](#)
Cc: s22; s22; s47E(d); s22
Subject: FAS CLEARED RESPONSE: Canberra Times query - Australian CDC [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 11:33:52 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi s22 /News

Please see FAS cleared response below:

Media Enquiry for response:

- s22
-
-
-

Shortened response:

- s22
- A phased approach will allow for the lessons of the COVID pandemic to inform the design of the Australian CDC. These lessons are currently being examined by the independent inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, led by Robyn Kruk AO. The Inquiry is due to deliver its report on 25 October 2024.
- s22

Happy to discuss.

Thanks

s22

Executive Officer to s22
 First Assistant Secretary
 Australian CDC Establishment Taskforce



Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: +61 2 5132 s22 | M: s22 | E: s22 @Health.gov.au

This email comes to you from Ngunnawal Country

Location: Scarborough House, Level 5

PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia



From: News <news@health.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 10:25 AM

To: s22 @health.gov.au

Subject: FW: Canberra Times query - Australian CDC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s22

Media Unit, Communication Branch

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: 02 6289 s22 | s22 E: news@health.gov.au

Unless stated otherwise, this information is provided on a background basis and should not be attributed.

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

From: s47F @canberratimes.com.au

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 10:06 AM

To: s22 @Health.gov.au; s47E(d)

@Health.gov.au

Cc: News <news@health.gov.au>

Subject: Canberra Times query - Australian CDC

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s22

I have some questions about the Australian CDC promised before the election.

- s22
-
-
-

My deadline is 2pm.

Kind regards,

--

s47F

Senior Political Reporter

The Canberra Times

M s47F

A Suite S2-96, Press Gallery, Parliament House, ACT, 2600

A 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra Times, ACT, 2601

W www.canberratimes.com.au



MEDIA RELEASE

23 October 2024

Action on Australian Centre for Disease Control now more urgent than ever: health experts

Leading Australian health experts have joined together today to call for the Government to urgently commit funds to establish a permanent Australian Centre for Disease Control (Australian CDC), saying that the Government's election promise to create the organisation is now more pressing than ever.

The call comes in the lead-up to the revised deadline for the delivery of the COVID-19 Inquiry Response Report (now due October 25), which the Government has said will help determine the Australian CDC's future structure and function. It also comes in the wake of the retirement of the Interim CDC's Head, Professor Paul Kelly.

Experts from the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases (ASID) and the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) say that delay of the COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report means that the Government will now need to act very quickly in the coming weeks to fulfil its' election promise and protect Australian's health.

Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin, PHAA's CEO is concerned about the lack of progress in setting up an Australian Centre for Disease Control to date.

"During the 2022 federal election campaign, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese committed to establishing an Australian CDC in their first term of Government. This promise is yet to be fulfilled. Currently we have an Interim CDC, with funding that expires on June 30, 2025.

"The COVID-19 Response Inquiry has been a very important and complex undertaking, and we fully-support the Government's decision to grant an extension to the Inquiry panel. However, as

soon as the report is delivered, we expect to see the Government act very swiftly to fulfil its' election promise before a Federal Election is called.

"The retirement of Australia's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paul Kelly this week also raises questions about the future leadership of the Australian CDC. Professor Kelly had been serving as the Head of the Interim CDC and has been a driving force for its establishment. We now need strong leadership for the agency in this vital stage in the development of the agency."

Professor Joseph Doyle, President of the ASID, adds that the threat of pandemics is ongoing, and that there are other health challenges that urgently need national leadership from a Centre for Disease Control.

"We urgently need an established CDC with secure resources and clear governance. It needs to be well resourced, science-led and accountable to best protect Australians from new and emerging health threats including avian influenza and mpox."

President of the RACP, Professor Jennifer Martin says that the Government also promised to deliver an Australian CDC with a focus on chronic disease prevention.

"The burden of preventable disease in our country is driven by modifiable factors such as tobacco use and vaping, unhealthy working and living environments, obesity and diabetes, underpinned by commercial determinants of health.

"If the Australian CDC is successful, fewer Australians will get sick or die from preventable diseases. It will also help us understand the best way to reduce the impact of some of Australia's most common preventable killers and the impact of social and commercial determinants that drive inequality, climate change and poor health outcomes for some Australians. There are strong health and economic reasons to invest in disease prevention.

"Climate change is the greatest threat to human health, increasing the burden of disease and disrupting our response to public health issues. The Australian CDC will play an integral role in planning for and responding to our greatest health challenges. The health sector and communities need certainty around the CDC's future," said Michelle Isles, CEO of Climate and Health Alliance

PHAA's Terry Slevin says that the Government has a unique opportunity to learn from COVID-19 and establish a national body that will help protect future generations.

"Australia is the only country in the OECD who doesn't have a Centre for Disease Control.

"The Australian CDC could be the most important and impactful change in the Australian public health landscape in our lifetime. It is critical it is set up effectively from the start with the right legislation and funding to deliver on its potential.

"We are looking forward to a definitive and substantial financial commitment to the establishment of the permanent CDC before the end of 2024, before an election is called."

ENDS

For media interviews please contact Hollie Harwood, Strategic Communications Advisor, Public Health Association of Australia ^{s47F} [REDACTED] [@phaa.net.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@phaa.net.au)

About the Public Health Association of Australia

We're Australia's peak body for public health and advocate for the health and wellbeing of everyone. We strive to help prevent, rather than cure, illness and disease.

Our campaigns and activities span numerous public health issues from environmental health, immunisation and pandemic control, through to tobacco, gambling, physical activity, junk food marketing, preventive mental health, health education and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Our 2,000+ individual members represent over 40 professional groups interested in the promotion of public health. We also have branches in every State and Territory. Learn more at phaa.net.au

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From: s22
To: s22 ; s22
Subject: FW: For review [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 11:08:00 AM
Attachments: [Pre Announcement - Email to FAS.docx](#)
[Pre Announcement - Email to all SES.docx](#)
[Yes Decision - Email to All Staff.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

s22 ... I don't think I have editing rights. So I copied and pasted my suggested changes – as follow. Unfortunately they are not tracked in this format ...

Email subject line: Government funding and commitment to establish Australian CDC received

Email message:

Dear Colleagues,

This afternoon, the Australian Government released the independent COVID-19 Inquiry report and confirmed funding to establish a standalone Australian CDC by 1 January 2026. s22

s22

From: s22 [REDACTED]@Health.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 10:53 AM
To: s22 [REDACTED]@health.gov.au>
Subject: For review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s22 [REDACTED] (pronouns: Her / She)
A/g Director – Change Management and Workforce
Australian Centre for Disease Control Establishment Taskforce
Implementation Branch

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
E: s22 [REDACTED]@health.gov.au

This email comes to you from Nggunawal Country
Location: Scarborough House, Level 5
PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia



The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 (CTH)
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2024 2:28 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: For information: email and letter package to stakeholder with accompanying distribution list [SEC=PROTECTED]
Attachments: Head of interim CDC email and letter_external stakeholders_non-COVID-19 Inquiry Report options s22 to sign_24 Oct.DOCX; Head of interim CDC email and letter_external stakeholders_COVID-19 Inquiry Report options s22 to sign_24 Oct.DOCX

Here u go s22! ☺

s22

Senior Advisor – Communication
Public Information Branch

People, Communication and Parliamentary Division | Corporate Operations Group
 Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: 02.6289 s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au
 PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601
 Level 3 Sirius Building North, Furzer St. Woden ACT

The Department of Health acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2024 1:25 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: For information: email and letter package to stakeholder with accompanying distribution list [SEC=PROTECTED]

Hi s22

Please see **attached** for your information 6 different versions of the email/letter package to stakeholders. Grateful for any input/pointers **by 2:30pm today** – as these products along with the **attached** distribution list and handling instructions are going up for AS clearance at 2:45pm.

1. Head of interim CDC email and letter to external stakeholders - COVID-19 Inquiry Report option - s22 to sign
2. Head of interim CDC email and letter to external stakeholders - non-COVID-19 Inquiry Report option - s22 to sign
3. Head of interim CDC email and letter to State and Territories - COVID-19 Inquiry Report option - s22 to sign
4. Head of interim CDC email and letter to State and Territories - non-COVID-19 Inquiry Report option - s22 to sign
5. Secretary CDC email and letter to HCEF members - COVID-19 Inquiry Report option - s22 to sign
6. Secretary CDC email and letter to HCEF members - non-COVID-19 Inquiry Report option - s22 to sign
7. Stakeholder distribution list – Director cleared

Happy to discuss.

Kind regards,

s22

s22 [She/Her]

Policy Officer
Policy and Engagement Section
Australian CDC Establishment – Strategy Branch



Australian Centre for Disease Control Establishment Taskforce
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

E: s22 @protected.health.gov.au or s22 @health.gov.au

This email comes to you from Ngunnawal Country

Location: Scarborough House, Level 3

PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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