

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

QUESTION NUMBER:

ASKED BY: HON IVAN DEAN MLC

ANSWERED BY: Hon Sarah Courtney MP

QUESTION:

- I. Provide information on the role of the Tasmanian Health Department in relation to formal audits of aged care facilities by the Commonwealth Regulator.

ANSWER:

- I. Residential Aged Care and Home-Based Care is primarily a Commonwealth responsibility through the Department of Health and the Aged Care and Quality Safety Commission (the Commission).

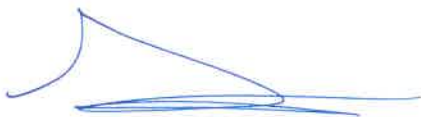
The Commission has a regulatory role to fulfil; and has commenced spot checks at Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) in Tasmania to monitor standards of infection prevention and control.

States and Territories have agreed to work collaboratively to support the Commonwealth and Aged Care Providers to be prepared for and appropriately respond to COVID-19 positive cases of residents in RACFs and Home Care recipients.

In line with this agreement, the Department of Health has established the Aged Care Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to undertake a system wide coordination function in preparing and responding to a COVID-19 outbreak in Tasmanian RACFs.

As part of this work, the Aged Care EOC is undertaking health support visits to Tasmanian RACFs to augment and enhance the measures already taken and to identify those facilities that require additional support, education and training to be able to respond appropriately to a COVID-19 outbreak.

The health support visits are separate to the Commission's spot checks.



Hon Sarah Courtney MP
Minister for Health

Date: 17/9/20