



RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Hearing Date: 4 March 2022

Directed to: Professor Euan Wallace

1. Ms Crozier Page no. 8

Question asked: Ms CROZIER: We have also heard evidence from various witnesses that there are outstanding category 1s that are not within the recommended time frames, so how many category 1s have not met the time frames of being able to be seen?

Prof. WALLACE: I do not have that number this morning, Ms Crozier, but I can certainly provide it to you. I mean, throughout the pandemic, as you know, our hospitals have strived to deliver category 1s, and really throughout December and January there were no breaches of category 1. The category 1 wait time, as you know, is 30 days, and there were no breaches. I mean, there has been the individual patient here or there, but in terms of big breaches of category 1s, that has not been a feature of the pandemic. But I will, on notice if I can, provide you with the number that are over time.

Response:

In the most recent performance data released (Q2 2021-22; Sep-Dec 2021), there are six confirmed Category 1 elective surgery breaches (more than 30 days) across the state.

All six elective surgery cases were completed in under 35 days. No adverse patient outcomes occurred because of the delays.

There were no breaches in Gippsland. A summary of the six confirmed Category 1 elective surgery breaches is provided in the table below:

Health service	Number of breaches	Reason for delay and follow up completed
South West Healthcare	4	COVID-19 outbreak at Warrnambool impacting workforce availability. The surgeries were deferred in close consultation with the treating specialists and all patients were treated within 35 days.
Monash Health	1	The breach coincided with a COVID-19 surge and the patient was treated on day 33 without further deterioration.
Grampians Health	1	Delay was associated with a temporary lack of access to post operative beds due to an emergency admission. The patient was treated by day 35.



The next release of performance data (covering Q3 2021-22; Jan-Mar 2022) will occur in early May, providing validated data on any further Category 1 elective surgery breaches across the state during this period.

2. Ms Crozier Page no. 9

Question asked: Ms CROZIER: If I could just go to some of the issues around the pathology testing, obviously there were 100 000 tests that were thrown out in early January, so the numbers of people that actually had omicron—but before I get to the pathology test question, if I may, what was the date that omicron arrived in Victoria?

Prof. WALLACE: We first started seeing omicron in very early December.

Ms CROZIER: That is what I think you told the committee in the briefing. Thank you—8 December, was that the correct date?

Prof. WALLACE: I would have to take that on notice.

Response:

The first confirmed case of Omicron in Victoria was announced on 8 December 2021 detected in an international traveller in hotel quarantine. The individual tested positive to COVID-19 on 6 December with genomic sequencing undertaken confirming the variant.

Directed to: Mr Weimar

3. Ms Crozier Page no. 10

Question asked:

Mr WEIMAR: ... ATAGI made the decision on 1 November that authorised some rapid antigen test kits for at-home use. Before 1 November, uniquely here in Australia, we could not use rapid antigen tests for home use; they had to be used under medical supervision. We ordered relatively small numbers, hundreds of thousands of rapid antigen kits, during November and December for use within the healthcare system.

Ms CROZIER: How many?

Mr WEIMAR: Hundreds of thousands.

Ms CROZIER: How many hundreds? Is that 100 000, 200 000?

Mr WEIMAR: I can get you the exact number on notice, but relatively small numbers for use within



the healthcare system. So we had stock of around 200 000, 300 000 during the early part of December. The significant order on rapid antigen test kits was made right before Christmas. On 24 December we made the first significant order—

Response:

The Victorian Government ordered approximately 50 million Rapid Antigen Tests between 1 November and 31 December.

Directed to: Ms Geissler

4. Ms Crozier Page no. 19–20

Question asked: Ms CROZIER: What I want to know is how many staff from the private system as we have heard from evidence in this committee that none came across. So I want to understand how many. I know patients were shipped out into the private system; that is a different question. Were any staff from the private system utilised outside of vaccination or testing?

Ms GESSLER: Yes. There were in aged care.

Ms CROZIER: How many?

Ms GESSLER: From 2020 they covered about 3000 shifts.

Ms CROZIER: No, I just want in the recent—

Ms GESSLER: Yes, so from 1 October 2021—

Ms CROZIER: No, the recent—from the code brown.

Ms GESSLER: I would have to come back to you with that data, other data.

Response:

233 shifts

From 3 January 2022, nurses, allied health, personal care assistants (PCAs) and other support staff were re-deployed to work from the private health system to public hospitals (63%), private hospitals (14%), residential aged care facilities (8%), and dedicated private hospitals for aged care transfers (15%) for a total of 233 shifts.



Directed to: Ms de Witts

5. Ms Crozier Page no. 20

Question asked: Ms CROZIER: With regard to the use of the critical instrument procurement policy as a result of implementing pandemic orders over the past three months, how many times has the CIP policy been used by the health department?

Ms de WITTS: Ms Crozier, I would have to take that on notice. I am not the chief procurement officer, but we can come back.

Ms CROZIER: Okay, if you could, and if we could have a list of those procurement contracts. Thank you very much

Response:

55 times

Implementing a home isolation solution to manage compliance for confirmed Cases
2nd Variation - for Hotel Quarantine Worker Test to mitigate the risk of spread of COVID
A new Head Secondment agreement with EY to assist with the COVID-19 Pandemic Response
Development of below-the-line communications - increase community engagement and outreach activities - Extension of time.
MVEC training modules for the rollout of the COVID-19 paediatric vaccination training package (vaccine for 5-11 year olds)
Variation to extend the terms of the current COVID-19 drive through vaccination site at Campbellfield to 30 June 2022
Variation for extending the delivery of the COVID-19 Testing, Reporting, Epidemiology Victoria (TREV) Solution
Covid 19 Vaccine Program Evaluation by Open Advisory
Variations to securing site licences for 2 X Strategic Testing Sites
Variation - for COVID-19 Call to Test Service to Support In-Home Testing Services Medibank Health Solutions Telehealth Pty Limited (until December 2021)
Variations - for hire agreements for temporary infrastructure X 10 companies
Variation for package delivery service Star Track
Providing advice on vaccination exemption requests for major events, commencing with the Australian Open
Continued provision of critical cooling infrastructure by engaging a second provider for redundancy - Active Air



Variation for extension of site licence Mooney Valley Racing Club
Alternate workforce medical support and clinical administration staff at COVID sites - Time only extension
Testing site licence at the Melbourne Town Hall - Epicure Melbourne Town Hall
Testing site licence at Overton Road, Frankston 1 Feb - 30 June 2022 - Bay City Auto Group
COVID-19 alternate workforce medical support and clinical administration staff
2 x Nurse Training Packages Melbourne University and ACU
Testing site licence, Melbourne Showgrounds, 1 Jan - 30 Jan 2022
Technical resources
Develop Autumn Readiness Strategy
Technical Resources to Support Omicron surge in DIME
Extension of license agreement, Royal Exhibition Building as a high volume COVID-19 vaccination site
Distribution of 5-11 vaccination printed materials and gift toys to state run vaccination sites
Temporary resource one month until 31 January 2022
Extension of site licence agreement for City of Melbourne, 231 Bourke Street
Extension of site Licence Agreement – Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre Car Park
Variation to testing Site Coordinators/ Supervisor services - Guarded Group
Victorian Wastewater Utilities variation to letter of understanding (PRN 20752)
Variation for home quarantine compliance using facial recognition and phone geolocation G2G Solution by Genvis
Testing site licence - 11 January - 30 June 2022 Bouverie St, Carlton - Handelsman Nominees Pty Ltd
COVID-19 Testing - Traffic Management Services, 7 January - 30 June 2022 First Nations Traffic Management Pty Ltd
Develop / implement COVID digital test (TREVI)
COVID Positive Pathways Patient Monitoring System
Market research agency to test creative territories for a new COVID-19 vaccine
COVID 19 Contact Centre
Surge capacity for contract tracing team
Agency Hire staff for COVID 19 Vaccine
Engagement and partnerships COVID 19 Vaccination Program
Project Analyst for the RAT Service Victoria Project for 3 weeks



Site Licence extension - Epicure Melbourne Town Hall (25 January 2022 - 17 February 2022)
Site Licence - La Trobe University Var Park 7A, (23 December 2021 - 31 March 2022)
Variation of the original approval for Manpower Group Services Pty Ltd, alternate workforce, COVID 19 Testing Site - Administration staff (1 February 2022 - 30 June)
REB Hire Extension
Cubicle Hire for Royal Exhibition Building Vaccination
REB Hire Extension
COVID 19- video ideal vaccination process
Site Licence extension - Epicure Melbourne Town Hall (18 February 2022 - 28 February 2022)
Collaborative platform, Optimise, evidence to inform Australia's COVID 19 response
Major site infrastructure services for vaccination program and testing sites. Variations x 6
Testing site licence -Melbourne Showgrounds 1 February to 30 June 2022
Extension of pathology services x 4
COVID 19 - Variation - Testing Site Licence Extension 1 Feb -31 March 2022