

From: s 22(1)
To: s 22(1)(a)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 9:22:53 AM
Attachments: [image004.gif](#)
[image006.gif](#)
[image009.gif](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[image011.jpg](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii) – just for context this is something s 22(1)(a)(ii) from the taskforce had prepared and already cleared that we have then picked up.

s 22(1)(a)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | A/g Director, Content Strategy & Production
Communications Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600
e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:pmc.gov.au) w. www.pmc.gov.au



From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 7:45 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)

Thanks for looping us into this one. I think it would be useful for the media team to contribute to comms plans for major reports like this. That way we can provide a consolidated whole of branch communications plan that encompasses key messages and includes media as a key channel too. Separately, we are working on a media Q&A.

I'm back in the office tomorrow - happy to chat more about how we can work together on this type of project.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:09 PM

To: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>

Cc: s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>;

PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Lauren

Can you please review the comms plan for the release of the Covid-19 Inquiry report:
[SC24_206_Covid19InquiryTaskforce_CommunicationsPlan.docx](#)

Please apply any changes in tracked mode, and reply to this email to confirm clearance.

It would be ideal to have approval by noon tomorrow.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)

Senior Communications Advisor

Communications Branch

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e s 22(1)(a) @pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au



The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a); [Le Cerf, Lauren](#)
Cc: s 47E(d) s 22(1); [PMC Media](#)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 10:08:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I had a chat with Alex this morning about the use of Commonwealth Government. The term has been used because it was in the terms of reference.

In this case we will leave it as is in the news item.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | A/g Director*
 Digital Communications Team | Communications Branch
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

cid:image005.jpg@01D30607.6CF4DA00

From: s 47E(d)
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 5:43 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; [Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>](mailto:Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au)
Cc: s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Just had a read of the news story for the PM&C website.

Just confirming that you will need to update 'Commonwealth Government' to 'Australian Government' as per the Style Manual guidance on [government terms](#).

Read the report will also need to be a contextual link.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | A/g Director*

Digital Communications Team | Communications Branch

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

cid:image005.jpg@01D30607.6CF4DA00

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:09 PM

To: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>

Cc: s 47E(d) <[redacted]@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@pmc.gov.au>; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; s 47E(d) <[redacted]@pmc.gov.au>

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Lauren

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[SC24_206_Covid19InquiryTaskforce_CommunicationsPlan.docx](#)

Please apply any changes in tracked mode, and reply to this email to confirm clearance.

It would be ideal to have approval by noon tomorrow.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)

s 22(1)(a)

Senior Communications Advisor

Communications Branch

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e. s 22(1)(a) <[redacted]@pmc.gov.au> w. [pmc.gov.au](#)

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practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: [Le Cerf, Lauren](#)
To: [Sullivan, Pauline](#); [Abel, Alexander](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Media release from today
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 9:30:40 PM
Attachments: [favicon.ico](#)

I missed this in today's flurry!

A lot of detail was added

Release of the Covid-19 Inquiry Report
pm.gov.au 

Sent from my iPhone

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Draft media release - COVID-19 inquiry report [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 11:20:45 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[DRAFT MEDIA QA - COVID-19 Inquiry report - 29 October.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

From: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 10:18 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pm.gov.au>
Cc: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; Robertson, Dana <Dana.Robertson@pmc.gov.au>; Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>; Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pm.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Draft media release - COVID-19 inquiry report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see attached Q&A to support as well.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)

PM&C Media

Communications Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) | m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
e. media@pmc.gov.au | w. pmc.gov.au

Note to media: Unless otherwise agreed, the information contained in this email is for background only and not for attribution.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pm.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 9:37 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pm.gov.au>
Cc: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; Robertson, Dana <Dana.Robertson@pmc.gov.au>; Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>; Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Draft media release - COVID-19 inquiry report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks very much s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 9:26 AM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@pmc.gov.au>

s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@pmc.gov.au>

Cc: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; Robertson, Dana <Dana.Robertson@pmc.gov.au>; Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>; Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>

Subject: Draft media release - COVID-19 inquiry report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning

Please see attached a draft media release – Q&A to follow shortly.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Public Affairs and Media

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)



I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands where I work. I pay my respect to their culture and their elders, past and present.

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MEDIA Q&A - COVID-19 Response Inquiry

Does the Government accept the inquiry's recommendations?

- The panel only handed to the Prime Minister last Friday and it is a substantial report.
- The government will release a response after carefully considering the panel's recommendations.

Did former Prime Minister Morrison and Health Minister Greg Hunt participate?

- Yes, former Prime Minister Scott Morrison and former Health Minister Greg Hunt met with the independent panel to contribute to the Inquiry.
- A number of other former Ministers also contributed to the Inquiry and agreed to have their names published – the former Treasurer the Hon Josh Frydenberg, the former Minister for Indigenous Australians the Hon Key Wyatt AM, and the former Minister for Aged Care, Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck.

Did all (then) Premiers and Chief Ministers participate?

- The Inquiry actively engaged with state, territory and local governments.
- The Inquiry engaged with some Premiers and Chief Ministers, however, participants were not required to disclose their participation.
- The Hon Dominic Perrottet, the Hon Annastacia Palaszczuk and the Hon Mark McGowan AO have agreed to have their names published in the report.

Should this Inquiry have had investigative powers to compel all former Ministers to fully participate?

- There was wide engagement from all levels of government, including former Ministers.
- The nature of the Inquiry encouraged open and honest input from Ministers and all stakeholders. This may not have been possible if investigative powers were used.

Melbourne had the longest lockdown in the world, yet this report contains no substantive mention of then Premier Daniel Andrews and his role. Was its scope too narrow?

- This inquiry focused on the Commonwealth's response to the pandemic. This included a broad range of actions that were taken – from border closures to vaccine supply.
- We know the pandemic was extremely difficult for many Australians.
- The review acknowledges the need for federal, state and territory governments to work together and consider all potential impacts of government action during a crisis – social, human rights, economic and mental health.

The inquiry is critical of the delay in securing and rolling out vaccines in Australia. Have lessons been learned?

- Work is already well underway to establish an mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility in Melbourne.
 - The Australian Government is working in partnership with the Victorian Government and Moderna.
- Once operational the facility is expected to be able to produce 100 million vaccine doses every year.
- The Government will consider the recommendations of the Inquiry.

Why has the Australian Centre for Disease Control stalled – when will it be fully implemented and funded?

- The Australian Government agreed to fund establishment of the permanent Australian CDC as part of the most recent MYEFO.
- An interim CDC launched on 1 November. In the most recent budget, the government committed \$90 million to establish the CDC.

Who was consulted on the Inquiry's report? Could all Australians contribute?

- The Inquiry received 2,201 public submissions. It undertook more than 250 stakeholder interviews and hosted 27 roundtables.
- The Inquiry also commissioned lived experience focus groups and a community input survey to ensure a wide variety of stakeholder views were heard.
- The submissions process was open to all Australians.

Are you concerned by the lack of trust in government, following the pandemic?

- Public sentiment and trust have changed since the pandemic.
- Planning for a potential future pandemic will need to take this into account.
- Government will take into account lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic, and recommendations to improve levels of trust in our community.

What is the government doing to address widespread and growing vaccine hesitancy?

- Vaccines save lives. They help to protect everyone – and in particular our most vulnerable – babies, small children and elderly Australians.
- Government will carefully consider the Inquiry's recommendations to address vaccine hesitancy.

Do you agree that the economic stimulus was excessive and contributed to inflation?

- Australia's economy performed remarkably well during the pandemic.

- The purpose of this Inquiry was to identify what worked well and where we can improve to prepare for the next crisis.

From: [Le Cerf, Lauren](#)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: TPs - s 47C - COVID [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:47:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Also for saving pls.

L

Lauren Le Cerf | Assistant Secretary
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
p. (02) 6271 5979 m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)


From: Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 27 October 2024 4:44 PM
To: Solomon, Joseph <Joseph.Solomon@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au>; Williams, Nadine <Nadine.Williams@pmc.gov.au>; Hefren-Webb, Liz <Liz.Hefren-Webb@pmc.gov.au>; Quigley, Janet <Janet.Quigley@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: TPs - s 47C - COVID [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi there

See below.

s 47C , s 47E(d)





From: Solomon, Joseph <Joseph.Solomon@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 27 October 2024 3:12 PM
To: Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>; [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
<[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) pmc.gov.au>; Williams, Nadine <Nadine.Williams@pmc.gov.au>; Hefren-Webb, Liz <Liz.Hefren-Webb@pmc.gov.au>; Quigley, Janet <Janet.Quigley@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: Re: TPs - [s 47C](#) - COVID [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

Thanks very much Pauline

[s 47C](#)



Cheers joseph

On 27 Oct 2024, at 14:58, Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au> wrote:

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi Joseph

Please find attached the TPs ^{s 47C} [REDACTED] ^{s 34(2)} [REDACTED]
^{s 34(2)} [REDACTED] for the COVID Report item.

I am free today/tomorrow morning if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards

Pauline

Pauline Sullivan | First Assistant Secretary
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. (02) 6271 5147 m. ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)} [REDACTED]
e. Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

<Secretary Talking Points - 28 October.docx>

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Le Cerf, Lauren](#); [Sullivan, Pauline](#)
Cc: s 22(1)(a) ; [Abel, Alexander](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE by Noon on TUES: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 28 October 2024 4:34:03 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[image012.jpg](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image015.jpg](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Lauren and Pauline

s 22(1)(a)(ii) and I have reviewed the comms plan for report release, as has Alex (who inserted the newsletter content cleared by the panel over the weekend), and there's a couple of suggested edits and comments in there for consideration:

[SC24_206_Covid19InquiryTaskforce_CommunicationsPlan.docx](#)

Once you've cleared, let me know and I'm happy to get it back to comms. They've asked for it by noon tomorrow.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **Director**
 COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](#) | w. [www.pmc.gov.au](#)

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From: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:26 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](#)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](#); [Sullivan, Pauline](#) <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>; [Abel, Alexander](#) <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii),

Can you please take the first look at this and come back to Pauline and I for clearance?

Thanks

Lauren

Lauren Le Cerf | Assistant Secretary
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
p. (02) 6271 5979 m. § 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: § 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:§ 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:09 PM
To: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: § 47E(d) [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:§ 47E(d)@pmc.gov.au)>; § 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:§ 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>;
PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; § 47E(d) [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:§ 47E(d)@pmc.gov.au)>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Lauren

Can you please review the comms plan for the release of the Covid-19 Inquiry report:
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§ 22(1)(a)(ii)

§ 22(1)(a)
Senior Communications Advisor
Communications Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
§ 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600
e. § 22(1)(a) [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:§ 22(1)(a)@pmc.gov.au) w. pmc.gov.au



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From: s 47E(d)
To: s 22(1)(a); [Le Cerf, Lauren](#)
Cc: s 47E(d); s 22(1); [PMC Media](#); s 47E(d)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE; Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 28 October 2024 5:43:30 PM

From: [Abel, Alexander](#)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Le Cerf, Lauren](#)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:43:56 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image013.jpg](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii) - forgive me for sticking my beak in, but this is the content I was looking at this morning (based on the pre 30 September stuff the media team drafted) – I've made the same changes in the link below that I saw on the earlier version to line up with the material in the report, and what the panel came back with over the weekend on the newsletter

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:33 PM
To: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>; Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Will do, thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **Director**
 COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](#) | w. www.pmc.gov.au

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From: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:26 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>; Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi § 22(1)(a)(ii),

Can you please take the first look at this and come back to Pauline and I for clearance?

Thanks

Lauren

Lauren Le Cerf | Assistant Secretary
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
p. (02) 6271 5979 m. +§ 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: § 22(1)(a)(ii) <[§ 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:§ 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:09 PM
To: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: § 47E(d) <[§ 47E\(d\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:§ 47E(d)@pmc.gov.au)>; § 22(1)(a)(ii) <[§ 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:§ 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>;
PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; § 47E(d) <[§ 47E\(d\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:§ 47E(d)@pmc.gov.au)>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Lauren

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[SC24_206_Covid19InquiryTaskforce_CommunicationsPlan.docx](#)

Please apply any changes in tracked mode, and reply to this email to confirm clearance.

It would be ideal to have approval by noon tomorrow.

Thanks

§ 22(1)(a)(ii)

§ 22(1)(a)

Senior Communications Advisor
Communications Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

§ 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e. § 22(1)(a) <[§ 22\(1\)\(a\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:§ 22(1)(a)@pmc.gov.au)> w. pmc.gov.au



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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: For urgent clearance - PM brief - final COVID-19 response inquiry report [SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Monday, 28 October 2024 9:24:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[PM brief - final report.docx](#)
Importance: High

PROTECTED

Please save this one – it was cleared by the Dep Secs with no changes

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **Director**
 COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
 p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2024 5:32 PM
To: Williams, Nadine <Nadine.Williams@pmc.gov.au>; Hefren-Webb, Liz <Liz.Hefren-Webb@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Quigley, Janet <Janet.Quigley@pmc.gov.au>; Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>; Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>; Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au; s 47E(d) s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) Solomon, Joseph <Joseph.Solomon@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: For urgent clearance - PM brief - final COVID-19 response inquiry report [SEC=PROTECTED]
Importance: High

PROTECTED

Good evening Nadine and Liz

For your clearance please as soon as possible: s 47C on the release of the COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report.

Pauline has cleared, but Janet hasn't had a chance to clear it yet. Given the timing we're keen to keep it moving, but Janet please let us know if you have any thoughts.

If there are any issues, Pauline would be happy to discuss

Regards
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **Director**
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2024 4:51 PM
To: Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>; Quigley, Janet <Janet.Quigley@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Urgent clearance - PM brief - final report [SEC=PROTECTED]
Importance: High

PROTECTED

Pauline and Janet

Could you please urgently clear the s 47C on the release of the report before providing to the Dep Secs.

Lauren has cleared, as has Fiscal Policy's s 22(1)(a)(ii).

Thank you
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **Director**
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: [Le Cerf, Lauren](#)
To: s 22(1)(a)
Cc: s 47E(d); s 22(1); PMC Media; s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:42:55 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image009.jpg](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

No worries s 22(1)(a)(ii) We will come back to you.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) is the contact in our team on these issues so grateful if you could loop her in on these emails.

Cheers

Lauren

Lauren Le Cerf | Assistant Secretary
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
p. (02) 6271 5979 m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:09 PM
To: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>;
PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Comms plan for Covid-19 report release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Lauren

Can you please review the comms plan for the release of the Covid-19 Inquiry report:
[SC24_206_Covid19InquiryTaskforce_CommunicationsPlan.docx](#)

Please apply any changes in tracked mode, and reply to this email to confirm clearance.

It would be ideal to have approval by noon tomorrow.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)
Senior Communications Advisor

Communications Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:pmc.gov.au) w. pmc.gov.au



The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: [Tom Burton](#)
To: [Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia](#)
Cc: [PMC Media](#)
Subject: Re: time table [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 28 October 2024 3:43:52 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Hi, could I get an answer to this request before the end of the work day pls
best,

Tom Burton
Government Editor
Australian Financial Review
tom.burton@afr.com

s 47F

Read our [public sector coverage](#)
[Sign up](#) to the free weekly **Inside Government** newsletter

On Mon, 28 Oct 2024 at 08:58, Tom Burton <tom.burton@afr.com> wrote:

Hi Covid team, could I please get tadvice on the expected release time table and release process for the inquiry report please. Will there be any briefing and a chance to read the report ahead of formal release please?


best,

Tom Burton
Government Editor
Australian Financial Review
tom.burton@afr.com

s 47F

Read our [public sector coverage](#)
[Sign up](#) to the free weekly **Inside Government** newsletter

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



From: [Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia](#)
To: [Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia](#); s 22(s) [PMC Media](#)
Cc: [Abel, Alexander](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) (ii) 22(1)
Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 28 October 2024 12:21:23 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[Re time table SECOFFICIAL \(61.8 KB\).msg](#)
[The Conversation - When will the report be released \(13.2 KB\).msg](#)
[covid_report \(8.99 KB\).msg](#)
[Question about COVID-19 inquiry report \(8.35 KB\).msg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)
(a)(ii)

As discussed just now, please see attached emails from journalists received thus far for your response. As also discussed we will apply an out of office message to our media mailbox referring people to the PMC Media account.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Engagement & Governance
 COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
 m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au
 Working on Whadjuk Nyoongar Boodja



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 10:46 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au>; Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)
(a)(ii)

Emails were received on the following dates:

- s 47F – 21/10
- Tom Burton – 28/10
- s 47F – 25/10

- s 47F – 24/10
- s 47F – 24/10

I will also check on the date the mailbox will transfer and get back to you.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Engagement & Governance
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

Working on Whadjuk Nyoongar Boodja



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 9:49 AM
To: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au
Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks – and were these received since Friday?

And can I please check – when will your inbox direct media queries through to media@pmc.gov.au ?

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 9:44 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au>; Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au
Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We have received requests from the following journalists:

- s 47F – ABC
- Tom Burton – AFR
- s 47F – The Conversation AU
- s 47F – The Australian
- s 47F – Canberra Times

Let me know if you require any further information.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Engagement & Governance

COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

Working on Whadjuk Nyoongar Boodja



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: s 22(1s 22(1) (a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 9:23 AM

To: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>

Cc: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>

Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Can you please let me know which journalists (and from which outlets) have enquired about this? The PMO were responding to enquiries of this nature on Friday so I want to ensure no double up. I will check with the Press Office, they may wish to respond directly now that the report has been delivered.

Thanks

s 22(1) (a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Public Affairs and Media

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)



I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands where I work. I pay my respect to their culture and their elders, past and present.

From: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 9:09 AM
To: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Team,

Could we please get some advice on this request ASAP, as we are continuing to get requests for information on when the report will be released? We have updated the proposed response text to acknowledge the report was delivered on 25/10, as below.

The Inquiry report was delivered to Government on 25 October 2024. Timing of the release of the report is a matter for government.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Engagement & Governance
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au
Working on Whadjuk Nyoongar Boodja



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2024 4:39 PM
To: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi PM&C Media team

Just following up with this enquiry.

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Strategy and Governance
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) |
e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia
Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 4:27 PM
To: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team

Just confirming the below proposed response.

MEDIA ENQUIRY FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	
COVID-19 RESPONSE INQUIRY TASKFORCE CLEARANCES	<i>Alexander Abel, Assistant Secretary, COVID-19 Response Inquiry</i>
JOURNALIST/OUTLET	s 47F ABC
ENQUIRY	Good morning, Is the Covid-19 Response Inquiry report still on track for the extension deadline date of Oct 25? And is this the date it will be made public? All the best,
PROPOSED RESPONSE	Attributable to a COVID-19 Response Inquiry spokesperson: The Inquiry report will be delivered to Government by 25 October 2024. Timing of the release of the report is a matter for government. Kind regards
DEADLINE	Not provided

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Strategy and Governance
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) |
e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 4:19 PM
To: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>; Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi folks – I suggested something shorter below – but please run the response past PMC media team to provide visibility and any comment (including flagging with PMO) before going back to the journalist.

Pauline – FYI enquiry from ABC

Happy to discuss,
Alex

Alexander Abel | Assistant Secretary
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. (02) 6228 6559 m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
e. alexander.abel@pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 3:45 PM
To: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Alex – please see email below.

Draft reply for your review/clearance, thanks!

s 22(1)(a)
(iii)

Good afternoon s 47F

The Inquiry report will be delivered to Government by 25 October 2024. Timing of the release of the report is a matter for government.

Kind regards

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, 21 October 2024 11:51 AM
To: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: Inquiry

Good morning,

Is the Covid-19 Response Inquiry report still on track for the extension deadline date of Oct 25? And is this the date it will be made public?

All the best,



s 47F
[Redacted signature block]

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

The information contained in this email and any attachment is confidential and may contain legally privileged or copyright material. It is intended only for the use of the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you are not permitted to disseminate, distribute or copy this email or any attachments. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this email from your system. The ABC does not represent or warrant that this transmission is secure or virus free. Before opening any attachment you should check for viruses. The ABC's liability is limited to resupplying any email and attachments.

From: [Abel, Alexander](#)
To: [Sullivan, Pauline](#)
Cc: [Le Cerf, Lauren](#)
Subject: Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry - transmittal or report [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 25 October 2024 9:44:33 AM
Attachments: [Letter of transmittal - final signed.docx](#)
[COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report.pdf](#)
[COVID 19 Response Inquiry Summary Final.pdf](#)
[PMC COVID lived experience FINAL Report.pdf](#)
[COVID 19 Response Inquiry Community Input Survey Final Report.pdf](#)

OFFICIAL

Pauline – attachments for transmittal, and draft email below.
Alex

Dear Prime Minister,

On 21 September 2023 you announced an independent inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic with an Inquiry panel consisting of Ms Robyn Kruk AO as chair, Professor Catherine Bennett, and Dr Angela Jackson.

On behalf of the Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry panel, I am pleased to provide the Inquiry's report.

Please find attached:

- Letter of transmittal from the Inquiry panel chair, Ms Robyn Kruk AO, on behalf of the panel members Prof Catherine Bennett and Dr Angela Jackson
- COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report
- COVID-19 Response Inquiry Summary: Lessons for the Next Crisis
- Copies of commissioned social research:
 - Final Report on Qualitative Research with Specific Cohorts on their Lived Experiences with the COVID-19 Pandemic, prepared by ORIMA
 - Community Input Survey, prepared by SECNewgate

We are continuing to work with your office regarding arrangements for public release of the report.

Regards,

From: [Sullivan, Pauline](#)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [DLQ; Robyn Kruk](#) ss 47F [Catherine Bennett](#) (s 47F) [Angela Jackson](#) (s 47F)
Subject: COVID-19 Response Inquiry - Report [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Friday, 25 October 2024 10:25:46 AM
Attachments: [Letter of transmittal - final signed.docx](#)
[COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report.pdf](#)
[COVID 19 Response Inquiry Summary Final.pdf](#)
[COVID 19 Response Inquiry Community Input Survey Final Report.pdf](#)
[PMC COVID lived experience FINAL Report.pdf](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear Prime Minister,

On 21 September 2023 you announced an independent inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic with an Inquiry panel consisting of Ms Robyn Kruk AO as chair, Professor Catherine Bennett, and Dr Angela Jackson.

On behalf of the Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry panel, I am pleased to provide the Inquiry's report.

Please find attached:

- Letter of transmittal from the Inquiry panel chair, Ms Robyn Kruk AO, on behalf of the panel members Prof Catherine Bennett and Dr Angela Jackson
- COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report
- COVID-19 Response Inquiry Summary: Lessons for the Next Crisis
- Copies of commissioned social research:
 - Final Report on Qualitative Research with Specific Cohorts on their Lived Experiences with the COVID-19 Pandemic, prepared by ORIMA
 - Community Input Survey, prepared by SECNewgate

We are continuing to work with your office regarding arrangements for public release of the report.

Regards,

Pauline

Pauline Sullivan | First Assistant Secretary
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. (02) 6271 5147 m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
e. Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: [Johnson, Tim](#)
To: § 47E(d)
Subject: FW: COVID-19 Response Inquiry - Report [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Friday, 25 October 2024 10:38:44 AM
Attachments: [Letter of transmittal - final signed.docx](#)
[COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report.pdf](#)
[COVID 19 Response Inquiry Summary Final.pdf](#)
[COVID 19 Response Inquiry Community Input Survey Final Report.pdf](#)
[PMC COVID lived experience FINAL Report.pdf](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi colleagues – forwarding to all as I expect has wide interest across health, aged care and comm-state. I don't know when it's being publicly published, so be mindful to close hold until then.

From: Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2024 10:35 AM
To: Davis, Glyn <Glyn.Davis@pmc.gov.au>; Solomon, Joseph <Joseph.Solomon@pmc.gov.au>; Hefren-Webb, Liz <Liz.Hefren-Webb@pmc.gov.au>; Williams, Nadine <Nadine.Williams@pmc.gov.au>; Hehir, Martin <Martin.Hehir@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Quigley, Janet <Janet.Quigley@pmc.gov.au>; Johnson, Tim <Tim.Johnson@pmc.gov.au>; Evans, Jo <Jo.Evans@pmc.gov.au>; Doherty, Greta <Greta.Doherty@pmc.gov.au>; Morony, Kendra <Kendra.Morony@pmc.gov.au>; Luchetti, Narelle <Narelle.Luchetti@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: FW: COVID-19 Response Inquiry - Report [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

PROTECTED//CABINET

Good morning all

Please find attached the COVID-19 Inquiry report, which has now been provided to the PM. I am also providing a copy to Minister Butler's office.

§ 47C § 34(2) § 47C

If you are contacted by your agencies seeking assistance to § 47C, do not hesitate to direct them to us. We are happy to highlight key issues for their specific portfolios. This same offer stands for you and your teams as well.

Kind regards

Pauline

From: Sullivan, Pauline
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2024 10:26 AM
To: § 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@pm.gov.au](#)>; § 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@pm.gov.au](#)>; § 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@pm.gov.au](#)>
Cc: § 47E(d) <[@pm.gov.au](#)>; Robyn Kruk (§ 47F) <§ 47F>; Catherine Bennett (§ 47F) <§ 47F>

Angela Jackson § 47F

< § 47F

Subject: COVID-19 Response Inquiry - Report [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear Prime Minister,

On 21 September 2023 you announced an independent inquiry into Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic with an Inquiry panel consisting of Ms Robyn Kruk AO as chair, Professor Catherine Bennett, and Dr Angela Jackson.

On behalf of the Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry panel, I am pleased to provide the Inquiry's report.

Please find attached:

- Letter of transmittal from the Inquiry panel chair, Ms Robyn Kruk AO, on behalf of the panel members Prof Catherine Bennett and Dr Angela Jackson
- COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report
- COVID-19 Response Inquiry Summary: Lessons for the Next Crisis
- Copies of commissioned social research:
 - Final Report on Qualitative Research with Specific Cohorts on their Lived Experiences with the COVID-19 Pandemic, prepared by ORIMA
 - Community Input Survey, prepared by SECNewgate

We are continuing to work with your office regarding arrangements for public release of the report.

Regards,

Pauline

Pauline Sullivan | First Assistant Secretary
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

p. (02) 6271 5147 m. § 22(1)(a)(ii)

e. Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: [Le Cerf, Lauren](#)
To: [Williams, Nadine](#)
Cc: [Hefren-Webb, Liz](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) [Quigley, Janet](#); [Sullivan, Pauline](#); [Abel, Alexander](#); s 47E(d) [s 47E\(d\)](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) [Solomon, Joseph](#)
Subject: Re: For urgent clearance - PM brief - final COVID-19 response inquiry report [SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Friday, 25 October 2024 6:42:46 PM

Thanks Liz and Nadine!

Have a good weekend.

Lauren

Sent from my iPhone

On 25 Oct 2024, at 5:48 PM, Williams, Nadine <Nadine.Williams@pmc.gov.au> wrote:

No concerns from me. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On 25 Oct 2024, at 5:44 pm, Hefren-Webb, Liz <Liz.Hefren-Webb@pmc.gov.au> wrote:

PROTECTED

Thanks Michelle – its good for me

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2024 5:32 PM
To: Williams, Nadine <Nadine.Williams@pmc.gov.au>; Hefren-Webb, Liz <Liz.Hefren-Webb@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Quigley, Janet <Janet.Quigley@pmc.gov.au>; Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>; Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>; Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>; s 47E(d) <s 47E(d)@pmc.gov.au>; s 47E(d) <s 47E(d)@pmc.gov.au>; s 47E(d) <s 47E(d)@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: For urgent clearance - PM brief - final COVID-19 response inquiry report [SEC=PROTECTED]
Importance: High

PROTECTED

Good evening Nadine and Liz

For your clearance please as soon as possible: s 47C
on the release of the COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report.

Pauline has cleared, but Janet hasn't had a chance to clear it yet. Given the timing we're keen to keep it moving, but Janet please let us know if you have any thoughts.

If there are any issues, Pauline would be happy to discuss

Regards

s 22(1)(a)
(ii)

<!--[if !vml]-->
<image002.png>
<!--[endif]--> s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Director

COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
e. s 22(1)(a)(iii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2024 4:51 PM
To: Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>; Quigley, Janet <Janet.Quigley@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Le Cerf, Lauren <Lauren.LeCerf@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Urgent clearance - PM brief - final report [SEC=PROTECTED]
Importance: High

PROTECTED

Pauline and Janet

Could you please urgently clear the s 47C on the release of the report before providing to the Dep Secs.

Lauren has cleared, as has Fiscal Policy's s 22(1)(a)(ii).

Thank you

s 22(1)(a)
(ii)

<!--[if !vml]-->
<image005.png>
<!--[endif]--> s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Director

COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

<image002.png>
<image005.png>

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia](#)
Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 25 October 2024 4:37:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

OFFICIAL

We have not, I'll send a follow up email

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Strategy and Governance
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) |
e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) [pmc.gov.au](#) | w. [www.pmc.gov.au](#)

The department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2024 4:28 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)> [pmc.gov.au](#)
Subject: FW: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hey s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Did we get any response from the media team on this one?

s 22(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Engagement & Governance
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) [pmc.gov.au](#) | w. [www.pmc.gov.au](#)

Working on Whadjuk Nyoongar Boodja



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 9:11 AM
To: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)> [pmc.gov.au](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)> [pmc.gov.au](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)> [pmc.gov.au](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)> [pmc.gov.au](#); Sullivan, Pauline

<Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi § 22(1)(a)(ii) – § 22(1)(a)(ii) sent it off to the PMC media team yesterday afternoon, I haven't seen a reply come back yet though.

From: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 9:09 AM

To: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>; Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>

Cc: § 22(1)(a)(ii) <§ 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>; § 22(1)(a)(ii) <§ 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>; § 22(1)(a)(ii) <§ 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>; Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Alex (and § 22(1) for flagging) – I'll follow this up now. Keep you posted.

§ 22

From: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 4:19 PM

To: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>

Cc: § 22(1)(a)(ii) <§ 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>; § 22(1)(a)(ii) <§ 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>; § 22(1)(a)(ii) <§ 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au>; Sullivan, Pauline <Pauline.Sullivan@pmc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi folks – I suggested something shorter below – but please run the response past PMC media team to provide visibility and any comment (including flagging with PMO) before going back to the journalist.

Pauline – FYI enquiry from ABC

Happy to discuss,

Alex

Alexander Abel | Assistant Secretary

COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

p. (02) 6228 6559 m. § 22(1)(a)(ii)

e. alexander.abel@pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 3:45 PM
To: Abel, Alexander <Alexander.Abel@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: § 22(1)(a)(ii) <§ 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au>; § 22(1)(a)(ii) <§ 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Alex – please see email below.

Draft reply for your review/clearance, thanks!

§ 22(1)(a)(ii)

Good afternoon § 47F

The Inquiry report will be delivered to Government by 25 October 2024. Timing of the release of the report is a matter for government.

Kind regards

From: § 47F
Sent: Monday, 21 October 2024 11:51 AM
To: Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia <Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: Inquiry

Good morning,

Is the Covid-19 Response Inquiry report still on track for the extension deadline date of Oct 25? And is this the date it will be made public?

All the best,



§ 47F

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From: § 47F
To: [Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia](#); [From § 47F](#)
Subject: The Conversation - When will the report be released?
Date: Friday, 25 October 2024 8:33:09 AM

Dear COVID-19 response inquiry team

So we can plan our coverage, can you please let us know when the inquiry team's report will be released to the public.

We understood it was going to be today (25 Oct). Is that still the case? If so, what time today AEDT? Or has the public release been delayed until next week? If so, please advise.

Please "reply all" to this email with your response.

Many thanks in advance

§ 47F

--

§ 47F

§ 47F | The Conversation AU | § 47F

§ 47F

[Australia](#) | [New Zealand](#) | [Africa](#) | [Canada](#) | [Europe](#) | [France](#) | [Global](#) | [Indonesia](#) | [Spain](#) | [UK](#) | [US](#)

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which I work, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and pay my respects to Elders past and present. I acknowledge that Aboriginal sovereignty has not been ceded.

From: s 47F
To: [Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia](#)
Subject: covid report
Date: Thursday, 24 October 2024 11:29:03 AM

Hi media team, just checking that the Covid response inquiry report is still due tomorrow and will it be released publicly tomorrow as well?

many thanks

s 47F

--

s 47F

Associate Editor

2 Holt Street Surry Hills NSW 2010

T s 47F

s 47F

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land in all states and territories on which we work and report. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging, and honour their history, cultures, and traditions of storytelling.



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From: s 47F
To: [Covid19ResponseInquiryMedia](#)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Question about COVID-19 inquiry report
Date: Thursday, 24 October 2024 9:40:03 AM

Hi there,

What time should we expect the COVID-19 inquiry report to drop tomorrow?

Will anything be released under embargo for tomorrow's newspapers?

Kind regards,

--

s 47F

The Canberra Times

s 47F

[A](#) Suite S2-96, Press Gallery, Parliament House, ACT, 2600

[A](#) 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra Times, ACT, 2601

[W www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)



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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Le Cerf, Lauren](#)
Subject: s 47C [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 24 October 2024 2:45:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Lauren

For consideration - s 47C

I've highlighted/tried to explain their edits below

s 47C



s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **Director**
COVID-19 Response Inquiry Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) pmc.gov.au | w. www.pmc.gov.au

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