# RTI 1316/20 – Costs of Quarantine

## Scope of application

Documents since 1 August, 2020, specifically reports, ministerial/executive briefings and attachments, executive board meeting minutes, audits, correspondence (please limit searches for correspondence to just the Director-General and the Deputy Directors-General) and records relating to quarantine costs. I am specifically seeking documents containing the following information and if that information is contained in one document, I'm happy to limit to just that:

- 1. The number of people who have been quarantined in QLD in private accommodation;
- 2. Of those, the origin of those people quarantined (ie. where they come from);
- 3. The number of people the government has billed for guarantine and the amount

### **Purpose of contextual information**

The purpose of this document is to provide further context to the information provided in the attached table.

#### Data source

Data relevant to Items 1 and 2 was extracted from the Queensland Health compliance team dashboard on 5 November 2020. The source of this information is the Digital Coronavirus Application (DCoVA). DCoVA is a Queensland Health web-based application, designed specifically for the Covid-19 response. Its purpose is to securely capture the essential information from each quarantine direction issued.

#### **Contextual information**

The information provided in the attached table is for the period 1 August 2020 – 1 October 2020. It shows that for the requested timeframe, the number of persons subject to quarantine in "own accommodation" (i.e. private accommodation) was 7,785. While "the origin of those people quarantined", is not captured, the reasons for quarantine (as per each person's quarantine direction) are captured in DCoVA and were categorised as follows:

- 4,221 other (e.g. persons who were identified as close contacts of confirmed cases during outbreaks),
  - o includes close contacts associated with the south east Queensland outbreaks that occurred at that time, of which at least 590 were children (under the age of 18).
- 1,867 Covid-19 hotspot (e.g. persons who at the time of being issued a direction were entering Queensland from a declared hotspot area),



• 1,676 – Overseas (e.g. persons from overseas (who at the time were) allowed to quarantine in own accommodation, such as flight crew or maritime crew).

With reference to question 1, please note that this figure is not relevant to the number of people granted an exemption from government mandated quarantine. These people would form a very small percentage of the total figure. Much larger cohorts, routinely quarantined in accommodation other than government mandated hotels include close contacts of confirmed cases, air crew and professional sporting codes.

Please notethat during the timeframe 1 August 2020 – 1 October 2020, there were a number of changes to the Chief Health Officer's Public Health Directions. Amendments to the Border Restrictions Direction would impact the numbers of people subject to quarantine at a given time e.g. when multiple interstate hotspots are in existence there are likely to be more people subject to quarantine. The number of these people granted an exemption from hotel quarantine and able to quarantine at home would form a very small percentage of the total figure.

With reference to question 3, please note that the number of people billed for quarantine during the period 1 August 2020 to 1 October 2020 does not correlate to the number of people in hotel quarantine during that time period. Invoicing for government mandated hotel quarantine is subject to delay.





• Cumulative # of invoices & value raised to date - 4,266 invoices raised and \$12,435,752.50 Irrelevant











