

RTI APPLICATION NUMBER: 1713/21
APPLICANT: ABC NEWS

RELEASE NOTES

Information regarding the management of the hotel quarantine system within Queensland:

- Whilst Queensland Health is the primary agency for pandemic response under the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, the management of quarantine accommodation facilities, including the suitability assessment, is a whole of government function coordinated by District Disaster Management Groups (DDMGs). DDMGs have Queensland Health representation in the form of HHSs, who will assess the suitability of hotels from a health perspective.
- The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) coordinates the quarantine accommodation program between DDMGs across and manages the contractual arrangements with the Hotel providers.
- Queensland Health has a Quarantine Services team that provides health-specific policy and operational advice to quarantine services including the provision of end-to-end infection control guidance. This fits under the legislative framework of the public health directions published by the Chief Health Officer.

Information regarding ventilation in hotel quarantine, specifically:

- The role of airborne transmission has been debated during the pandemic, and understanding of SARS-CoV-2 has developed. It has become clear that airborne transmission may be implicated in a number of transmission events in indoor environments. This has implications for quarantine in hotels in particular, where ventilation is typically poor, and facilities are not designed for infection prevention and control.
- Understanding of SARS-Cov-2 and its route of transmission continues to develop.
- Continuous improvement in infection prevention and control to accommodate the latest evidence is central to the ongoing protection of the wider Queensland community. This means that strategies change with experience and as new information becomes available.