

Olivia Winchester

From: Health
Sent: Monday, 20 September 2021 9:02 AM
To: Irrelevant @ministerial.qld.gov.au
Subject: FW: Vanguard Health Home Quarantine and Virtual Ward Service
Attachments: Letter to the Minister re_ Home Quarantine and Virtual Ward 170921.pdf

From: Tim Gallagher Irrelevant @vanguardhealth.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 17 September 2021 1:42 PM
To: Health Irrelevant @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Simon Zanatta Irrelevant @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Vanguard Health Home Quarantine and Virtual Ward Service

Good Afternoon Minister,

Please find attached a letter requesting a meeting to discuss Vanguard's capability to implement a state based Home quarantine and Virtual Ward service as an integrated service for the Queensland Government and Queensland Health.

Kind Regards,

Tim

Tim Gallagher MAICD
Chief Executive Officer

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> Vanguard Health

 **IRIS**
Indigenous and Remote
Eye Health Service

 **Doctors**
for All

Vanguard respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and the Elders past and present of the land from where this email was sent and the land on which it is received.



17 September 2021

Hon. Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Queensland Government

Dear Minister,

I write to introduce myself as the Chief Executive Officer of Vanguard Health (Vanguard) and to request a meeting to discuss how Vanguard could assist the State Government's home quarantine program through Vanguard's innovative Virtual Ward Service.

Since its foundation in 2009, Vanguard has provided specialist solutions to public health institutions to support delivery of health services into the community, particularly in regional and remote locations as well as to indigenous populations. Vanguard has a strong track record of successful partnerships with public and private entities, including as a delivery partner to the Queensland Department of Health (Health) under your government through a range of specialist medical programs.

At the onset of the COVID pandemic, s47(3)(b) supplying testing and vaccination services in central Queensland. This work resulted in Vanguard being declared a private vaccination partner by the Queensland Government, with the objective of delivering millions of COVID-19 vaccination doses across the State.

Vanguard is supporting the Australian Government's vaccine rollout in aged care in the Darling Downs region. Over a four-week period, we delivered thousands of vaccine doses to aged care residents and workers. Because of the success of this work, we are now in active discussions with Operation COVID Shield to understand how we could further contribute to the national vaccination program.

I understand the Queensland Government is investigating how to implement a home quarantine model for returning Australians and international visitors who are fully vaccinated. I believe Vanguard's widely deployable and skilled medical workers, including clinicians, doctors and nurses, could support this model by providing a Virtual Ward Service from our Brisbane headquarters to oversee the health of travellers quarantining at home, as well as those in home isolation who may be infected with COVID.

Vanguard's Virtual Ward Service has been designed in consultation with leading Queensland public health doctors as a comprehensive patient management system. Drawing on our clinical governance expertise, the Virtual Ward Service draws on tools such as remote check-ins and nursing telehealth services by qualified doctors to monitor key diagnostics, such as blood oxygen levels and other clinical factors.

To ensure the safety of participating Australians, a panel of medical experts could determine and agree the health indicators to monitor and designate the requirements when an individual should be transferred from home to a hospital for care. This approach would ensure clear processes and logistics are in place to manage home quarantine safely, especially for individuals, healthcare workers and the community more broadly.





Adopting a Virtual Ward Service would benefit Queensland's healthcare system, including by ensuring public hospitals' resources are not overwhelmed and can continue to be utilised for those in critical need. Engaging a dedicated partner such as Vanguard would give the Queensland Government direct control of home quarantine and provide additional support to the states and territories, many of which are experiencing chronic staffing shortages due to the pandemic.

A complimentary benefit of utilising our Virtual Ward Service is then fact that it may also facilitate a safe increase in the number of Australians returning home, particularly in the lead up to Christmas, without necessarily increasing demand on new or existing quarantine facilities, s47(3)(b)

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this concept as well as our ability to customise a Virtual Ward Service based on your feedback or any specific requirements.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Queensland Government to support the vaccination rollout and protect the health of Australians.

Kind Regards,

Irrelevant

Tim Gallagher
Chief Executive Officer
Vanguard Health

