



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Mr Alistair Coe MLA (Chair), Ms Tara Cheyne MLA (Deputy Chair), Mrs Vicki Dunne MLA,
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by Mrs Dunne on 1 May 2020: Ms Stephen-Smith took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 1 May 2020 [PAGE #89]]

In relation to: Complications related to COVID-19 -- Current thinking and long-term impact

What is the current thinking about complications relating to COVID-19 and what the long-term medical impact might be for people at the severe end?

Ms Stephen-Smith: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Our understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 is continuing to evolve. There are many things about COVID-19 that are uncertain at this time, including a thorough understanding of the longer-term complications that can arise from the disease. However, the following acute and chronic medical complications are known:

Acute:

- Acute Respiratory Failure requiring mechanical ventilation
- Acute thrombotic events causing stroke and lung clots
- Overwhelming infection from SARS CoV2 causing multiple organs to fail
- Injury to the heart muscle causing heart failure

Chronic:

- Post intensive care syndrome including extreme weakness, cognitive impairment, post traumatic distress disorder.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the COVID-19 pandemic response

Signature:

Date: 19 | 5 | 20

By the Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

MRS DUNNE: I have another question, and for the most part it is probably to be taken on notice. There seem to be a range of complications because, essentially, it seems to be an inflammatory disease. Could you point the committee to what the current thinking is about complications and what the long-term impact might be for people at the severe end? There has been lots of discussion, and I would like the committee to be informed about, medically, what the concerns are about the long-term complications associated with COVID-19.

Ms Stephen-Smith: We should probably take that on notice and provide the committee with some references that the AHPPC and health experts think are the best ones.