



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 CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA on 14 May 2020: REBECCA CROSS took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 14 May 2020, PAGE P203

In relation to:

MS LE COUTEUR: The other question which is a supplementary to Ms Cheyne's about supply chains—and I fear I know the answer—is: have you been doing any work in terms of supply chains specifically into the ACT and not just the immediate things like food? I was rung up by the Red Cross, who postponed my blood donation because they are missing supplies and they cannot do blood donations. It is things like that; not the first level "Are we going to starve?" but "What else are we missing?"

Ms Cross: We are doing work around food security and just looking at that as a longer term issue. There has been a huge amount of consideration of personal protective equipment which has been a priority for a number of organisations—masks and gloves and hand sanitiser. There has been a lot of work done on that. The only other one I am aware of is work on the flu vaccine to make sure that we had good supplies of the flu vaccine. I am not aware of anything else but, again, I can ask across government and see if anything further has been done. I was not aware of the issue with the Red Cross, but I can follow up on that for you.

REBECCA CROSS: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Canberra Health Services understands that Lifeblood (the new name for The Australian Red Cross Blood Service) contacted and deferred some of their plasma donors due to a shipping delay of citrate (the anticoagulant used in blood collection). The delay was initially expected to last two weeks, but the National Blood Authority assisted in expediting the product release and delivery and the situation was resolved by 7 May 2020.

In relation to supply chain issues, the Education Directorate has undertaken a bulk procurement process to hold and supply essential hygiene products including toilet paper, hand soap, paper towels, hand sanitiser etc to support all ACT Public Schools. The Directorate has engaged Chemworks, a local family owned Canberra business, who is able to meet the projected demand and support ACT Public Schools during the COVID-19 crisis, where there was disruption and unprecedented demand to the current supply chain for these products.

Other Directorates have been involved in discussions in relation to broader issues for several industry sectors, including primary industry and agriculture and the construction industry, however these discussions have not focused specifically on supply chain issues.

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

Signature: 

Date: 2 June 2020

By the Coordinator-General, Rebecca Cross