

CORONAVIRUS — RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS — PROCUREMENT

985. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

My question was asked to the Minister for Emergency Services but was redirected to the Leader of the House representing the Premier.

I refer to the answers to questions on notice provided to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations regarding the 2023–24 budget estimates.

- (1) Is the minister—or now the Premier—aware that the Minister for Health has informed the committee that the request that Health Support Services procure approximately 110 million rapid antigen tests was made by the state’s emergency management team?
- (2) On what date did the emergency management team endorse and approve that purchase?
- (3) Did the emergency management team also make a request to the Department of Finance to procure RATs?
- (4) If yes to (3), on what date did that occur?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) The emergency management team was an informal forum that brought key decision-makers managing the state of emergency together to share information about significant and urgent issues relating to the COVID-19 response and to facilitate discussions enabling decision-making to occur. As stated on numerous occasions in the Parliament by the former Premier and the Minister for Health, who were both members of the EMT, initial consultation with suppliers commenced in October 2021. Commercial negotiations were held in November 2021, and initial orders were placed in mid-December 2021. This included decisions on orders from both the Department of Finance and the Department of Health.