

CORONAVIRUS — RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

2. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to consistent comments made by the Premier and Health Minister Sanderson when they repeatedly refused to provide an exact date on which rapid antigen tests were procured in preparation for the border reopening, other than “the first half of December 2021”.

- (1) Why has the government consistently declined to reveal the date on which these tests were ordered?
- (2) On what exact date were the RATs ordered by the WA government?
- (3) How many charter flights were utilised to deliver the RAT order, and at what cost?
- (4) When did the first shipment of RATs arrive in Western Australia?
- (5) How many RATs have been provided to date, and what number are scheduled to arrive?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) This is untrue. The Premier and the Minister for Health have stated that the first order of rapid antigen tests was placed in mid-December.
- (2) Consultation with suppliers commenced in October 2021 to determine RAT kit suitability through in-house validation testing. Following completion of validation testing, commercial negotiations were held in November 2021, and initial purchase orders were raised in mid-December across four suppliers.
- (3) The Department of Health chartered two flights at \$700 000 per flight.
- (4) On 30 December 2021. Approximately 10 million are in stock today, net of usage and distributed tests to date.
- (5) The state government has ordered approximately 111 million tests, and the commonwealth government has advised that it will provide 1.04 million tests.