



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

20 August 2021

D21/42867

The Hon Brad Hazzard MP  
Minister for Health and Medical Research  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

### **Inquiry into the NSW Government's management of the COVID-19 pandemic**

On behalf of the committee, thank you for giving evidence to the committee alongside Dr Kerry Chant and Dr Nigel Lyons at the hearing on Tuesday 10 August 2021. The committee acknowledges that it is a very busy time for you, Dr Chant and the Ministry of Health and appreciates your contribution.

I wish however to raise an issue that was raised multiple times throughout the session. On a number of occasions, you indicated that there was an 'agreement' between the committee and the witnesses that the session would last for one hour, from 12.30 to 1.30 pm.

From the beginning of our engagement (see my letter dated 22 July 2021), the committee's invitation was for you, Dr Chant and other relevant Health representatives to give evidence for a period of 1.5 hours. This request remained consistent throughout all of the engagement between the committee secretariat and your office. I note that even on Monday 9 August, a day before the hearing, the secretariat reiterated the committee's request for the appearance to be from 12.30 to 2.00 pm.

The committee is thus concerned at the representation that was made in your evidence of an 'agreement' between the committee and yourself. We acknowledge that you did agree to appear in a voluntary capacity and also believe that this is appropriate as there remains a critical role for the Parliament and its committees to examine the response to the latest COVID-19 outbreak in New South Wales.

Therefore, I write to provide you with an opportunity to clarify this specific aspect of your evidence.

For your information, the transcript for Tuesday's hearing has been attached, with two questions taken on notice highlighted. The committee also has a number of supplementary questions.

It would be appreciated if you could provide answers to the questions on notice and supplementary questions by **Friday 10 September 2021**. I would also appreciate if you could provide a response to the issue raised above by **5.00 pm, Monday 23 August 2021**.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Helen Hong, Principal Council Officer – Committees on 9230 3586 or email [Public.Accountability@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Public.Accountability@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Mr David Shoebridge MLC  
**Chair**

cc: The Hon Don Harwin MLC