

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Purick to the Minister for Health; and National Resilience:

**NT Government's Mandatory Vaccination Scheme**

- 1. How will an employer provide the employee vaccination status data to government and in what format and on what timeframe and regularity?**

Information about a worker's vaccination status will need to be provided to an authorised officer upon request.

- 2. How will the government regulate businesses to ensure that an employer is undertaking the required tasks?**

Officers authorised under the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011* (NT) are undertaking random checks of businesses to ensure they have implemented the requirements of the CHO Direction.

- 3. How will the government address and monitor sole traders who employ people on a casual or subcontracting basis?**

Officers authorised under the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011* (NT) are undertaking random checks of businesses to ensure they have implemented the requirements of the CHO Direction.

- 4. Will the NT Government allow software companies based in the NT access to this data so they can develop vaccination status integrations for workplaces?**

No.

- 5. How will the government guarantee privacy of an individual's data?**

All vaccination data is stored within the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and is the responsibility of the Australian Government.

- 6. Where within government will the data be stored?**

All records of vaccination in Australia, including within the NT, are registered on the AIR.

- 7. Will the vaccine status of an individual be able to be transferred to an interstate government agency if the person moves to an interstate employment situation?**

As the AIR and Medicare are national programs, the Medicare COVID-19 Digital Certificate, available from Medicare, is accepted in every state and territory.

- 8. How will the government address people who are “irregular” that is, people who have been vaccinated outside of Australia and their vaccination status is not recorded in the Australian Immunisation register?**

Various overseas vaccinations not approved for use in Australia have now been recognised by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

If a person has received a course of a recognised vaccine this can be added to AIR.

- 9. At some time in the near future, will government look to regulate employers such that non forwarding of information will result in a penalty?**

The penalty for failing to abide by the Chief Health Officer Directions issued under section 56 of the *Public and Environment Health Act 2011* is \$5,024 for an individual (32 penalty units) and \$25,120 for a business (160 penalty units).