



Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance
Services
Minister for Women

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 4012-24, tabled in Parliament on 13 February 2024, in relation to publication of COVID-19 death data.

I acknowledge your petitioners' request for COVID-19 death data to be published on the Queensland Health website and welcome this opportunity to clarify some important points regarding COVID-19 death data.

Reporting of COVID-19 associated deaths on the Queensland Health website was discontinued on 11 May 2023. This change followed the removal of the public health emergency status in Queensland on the 31 October 2022, and the subsequent transition of the Queensland COVID-19 response to 'living with COVID-19'. In recognition of this transition, Queensland Health's COVID-19 reporting has been brought in line with other notifiable conditions.

The Queensland Health website now provides weekly reports on hospitalisation associated with COVID-19 and other respiratory infections: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/surveillance/reports/flu>. The number of persons hospitalised with COVID-19, Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus since 1 January 2023 is displayed and a breakdown of numbers by age group and place of residence is also presented.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes provisional deaths data for measuring changes during the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia: <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-australia-deaths-registered-until-30-november-2023>

Data published by the ABS is collected through the civil registration system and the registration of deaths is the responsibility of the eight individual state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Civil registration-based data is not directly comparable with that released from disease surveillance systems. Further information on methodology and timeframes can be found here: <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-australia-deaths-registered-until-30-november-2023>

It is important to note that the Queensland Department of Health does not send death data to the ABS. Data associated with all notifiable conditions, (including COVID-19) is reported to the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System. This data, including COVID-19 associated deaths in Australia, is published on the Department of Health and Aged Care website: <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/covid-19/reporting>

Queensland Health remains committed to providing timely, accurate data on notifiable conditions and continues to monitor COVID-19 indicators to ensure robust public health responses when needed.

Thank you for your petition and for raising your concerns. Should you require any further information on this matter, I have arranged for Prof Ross Andrews, Executive Director, Public Health Intelligence Branch, Department of Health, on his office telephone (07) 2100 9234, to be able to assist you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Fentiman', written in a cursive style.

Shannon Fentiman MP

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services

Minister for Women

Member for Waterford