

## **Statement from a spokesperson for Aged Care Services Minister Richard Colbeck:**

Minister Colbeck's commitment and dedication in his role as Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services has never been greater.

He is in daily contact with department officials and weekly contact with aged care stakeholders, often engaging directly with providers affected by outbreaks.

On January 14 these engagements included and were not limited to attending:

- The COVID Vaccine and Response meeting led by Taskforce Commander Lieutenant General John Frewen;
- A meeting with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner and Acting Secretary of Health on specific aged care matters including current outbreaks; and
- A meeting with the Deputy Chief Medical Officer to discuss Aged Care Advisory Group actions.

Minister Colbeck also attended to a number of aged care business-related matters.

The decision for Minister Colbeck to attend the Ashes Test in Hobart was made as part of his commitments as Minister for Sport and Senator for Tasmania. It should also be noted, play for the day/night match did not start until late afternoon.

At a time when the Australian Government continues to work to protect the lives of senior Australians in care, attempts by the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 to redirect resources away from the Department of Health for political purposes is of serious concern and should be noted by Australians as we navigate the impact of the pandemic.

Minister Colbeck was scheduled to appear before the committee today, however due to a family bereavement is working with the committee to agree a new date.