

From: Bailey, Isobel (R. Sharkie, MP)
Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2020 10:22 AM
To: ejminoz@gmail.com
Subject: State Legislation - Coronavirus

Dear Emma,

I work as Rebekha's policy adviser for matters relating to aged care and she has therefore asked me to respond to you on her behalf.

First, apologies for the delay in responding to your email – priority is being given to assisting those with bushfire related matters accordingly I am not able to respond to policy queries as quickly as I would ordinarily like to.

Unfortunately as this is State legislation Rebekha has no opportunity to consider the bill, debate the merits of the measure or vote on the Bill. However, I strongly encourage you to contact Connie Bonaros MLC of SA Best and raise your concerns with her. Ms Bonaros is in the Upper House of State Parliament and she is also Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Health. Her contact number is 8237 9259 or bonaros.office@parliament.sa.gov.au.

As we've seen the Commonwealth already has the power to deal with quarantine matters where there is a health risk, for example to establish quarantine centres and travel restrictions. However, the Commonwealth legislation has a number of checks and balances in place and relies on an independent determination being made by the Chief Medical Officer. While I have not had cause to scrutinise the State proposal, my understanding is that it is not quite as robust.

Similarly, I share your concerns that this may be an overreach in circumstances where there are already a wide range of powers open to the Government – from everything from controlling public order to school closures – and that in light of the extensive Commonwealth powers this may indeed be an overreach.

While this is a state matter I am happy to chat further over the phone if you would like otherwise I encourage you to contact Ms Bonaros at State Parliament.

Kind regards,

Isobel Bailey
Policy Adviser