



FOI Request FA 21/07/00186

Question:

I seek information created between January 1, 2020 and July 3, 2021:

- 1. How many individuals have been given exemptions by Border Force to return to Australia via private medevac since the pandemic began?*
- 2. How many private medevac flights have been given the right to return Australian citizens?*
- 3. How many private medevac flights have been granted the right to return non-Australian citizens to Australia?*
- 4. Of those people granted the right to return home via private medevac, how many of those tested positive to Covid before being granted the right to return?*
- 5. How many people returned directly to each state and territory in SA?*

Answer:

- Between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2021, there were 692 inwards travel exemptions approved on the basis of needing urgent medical treatment or evacuation. This includes patients on Medevac flights, as well as individuals travelling on commercial flights to access urgent medical treatment in Australia.
 - This figure cannot be disaggregated to show only those on private medevac flights without an individual examination of cases.
 - Data prior to 20 March 2020 is not available.
- As above, the figures cannot be disaggregated to show only those on private medevac flights without an individual examination of cases. Australian citizens are automatically exempt from inwards travel restrictions, and do not require an individual exemption or a visa to travel to Australia.
- Refer to questions 1 and 2. All inwards travel exemptions were for non-citizens, as Australia's inwards travel restrictions do not apply to returning Australian citizens.
- The Department did not collect information about a person's COVID-19 status at the time of this FOI request.
- From 1 August 2020¹ to 30 June 2021, 593 travel exemptions were approved for urgent medical treatment or evacuation. Of these, less than five provided an address in Australia that was in South Australia.

¹ Processing of travel exemption requests moved to the Travel Exemptions Portal on 1 August 2020. Data cannot be disaggregated by intended address in Australia prior to this date.