

**ANTHONY ALBANESE MP
LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
MEMBER FOR GRAYNDLER**

**SENATOR KATY GALLAGHER
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FINANCE
SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
MANAGER OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS IN THE SENATE
SENATOR FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**LABOR SECURES AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH SENATE INQUIRY INTO
COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY**

Labor has secured an agreement with the Government to establish a cross-party Senate Select Committee into the Government's response to COVID-19.

This Senate Committee, to be chaired by Senator Katy Gallagher, is designed to be a broad and long-ranging vehicle to scrutinise the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic including more than \$300 billion of expenditure to date.

Labor has worked cooperatively with the Government during all stages of the response to this crisis in the national interest. That's what Australians expect of all of us.

The Parliament has an obligation to scrutinise and provide oversight of the Government's response to ensure Australians are being protected during this crisis.

There is no reason why the Parliament should not sit through this crisis.

In the absence of the Government's support for sittings, a Senate Select Committee is the best mechanism to enable this scrutiny as the response phase transitions into recovery over coming months and years.

This pandemic has created unprecedented health, economic and social challenges for our nation and this inquiry will be able to consider all of these issues in detail.

Senator Gallagher will be joined by Senator Kristina Keneally and Senator Murray Watt as the other Labor members of the Committee.

The Committee will table its report no later than June 30, 2022.

TUESDAY, 7 APRIL 2020

MEDIA CONTACTS:
LEADER'S PRESS OFFICE 02 6277 4053
PAT CRONAN (GALLAGHER) 0432 758 224