



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**

Mr Matthew Crawshaw  
Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Mr Crawshaw

**Request for Amendment to Evidence Provided at Additional Estimates Hearing,  
Wednesday, 26 February 2014: Outcome 2**

I am writing to correct a statement that I made at the Additional Estimates hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on Wednesday 26 February 2014.

Senator Di Natale asked the following question:

“What was the total budget?”

My response was as follows:

“For 2010-11 it was \$12.65 million; for 2011-12 it was \$16.24 million; for 2012-13 it was \$23.28 million; and in 2013-14 it will be \$9.176 million. I should be clear that the \$23.28 million in 2012-13 represented the spike that we had in the change in claiming behaviour, which is where the funds had to be found to meet that cost.”

It has been brought to my notice that the response should now be amended as the figures I quoted (except for 2013-14) were what was actually spent on the program rather than the allocated budget (changes are underlined):

“For 2010-11 it was \$11.453 million; for 2011-12 it was \$12.791 million; for 2012-13 it was \$8.601 million; and in 2013-14 it will be \$9.176 million. I should be clear that the \$23.28 million spent in 2012-13 represented the spike that we had in the change in claiming behaviour, which is where the funds had to be found to meet that cost.”

Yours sincerely

Felicity McNeill  
First Assistant Secretary  
Pharmaceutical Benefits Division

6 March 2014