



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

Dr Ian Holland  
Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Dr Holland

**Request for Amendment to Evidence Provided at Budget Estimates Hearing,  
Date 31 May 2012: Outcome: 5. Primary Care**

I am writing to correct a statement made by Anne Thorpe, who was A/g Assistant Secretary for GP Super Clinics Branch at the Budget Estimates Hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 31 May 2012.

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked the following question:

“On what date did the assessment process conclude and the department notify applicants whether they were the preferred applicant or not?” (in regard to the Sunshine Coast GP Super Clinic)

Ms Thorpe’s response was as follows:

“The process here is that negotiations commenced with the preferred applicants. There is no notice to other applicants until the funding agreement is signed, on the basis that one can never be certain that the negotiations will reach a successful conclusion.”

It has been brought to my notice that the evidence that Ms Thorpe provided was inaccurate. However, in light of subsequent discussions the response should now be amended as follows (changes are underlined):

“The process here is that negotiations commenced with the preferred applicants. There was a notice to other applicants that negotiations with a preferred applicant had commenced, but that there was potential for other approaches to applicants prior to the funding agreement being signed, on the basis that one can never be certain that the negotiations will reach a successful conclusion.”

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Booth', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Booth  
First Assistant Secretary

31 July 2012