



**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 Furner asked the following question:

“I will start with Gladstone, one of the resource boom areas of my state. How is the existing GP superclinic going up there?”

Ms Thorpe’s response was as follows:

“It is not an existing GP superclinic. The situation is that there are early services being provided by the Windmill practice locally while the superclinic is in development. Unfortunately for the funding recipients, there have been some delays in progressing this development because there were two appeals against the council’s development approval for the site, so council approved the proposed superclinic on the site where it was to be, but two local organisations lodged appeals in the Land and Environment Court. That has taken an extensive period of time to resolve, with negotiation basically through an arbitrated process.”

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

“It is not an existing GP superclinic. The situation is that there are early services being provided by the Windmill practice locally while the superclinic is in development. Unfortunately for the funding recipients, there have been some delays in progressing this development because there were two appeals against the council’s development approval for the site, so council approved the proposed superclinic on the site where it was to be, but two local organisations lodged appeals in the Land and Environment Court. That has taken an extensive period to resolve, through negotiations”

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Faichney  
A/g First Assistant Secretary

13 July 2012