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2 March 2015

Mr David Sullivan
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sullivan

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the Additional Estimates hearing held on 25 February 2015 concerning the cost of Special Purpose Aircraft flights between Canberra and Sydney. This evidence was given in response to a question asked by Senator Conroy.

On page 67 of Hansard, I stated that ‘the basis for the determination of costs is not about the aircraft type but about equivalency of seats, economy on the day rate.’ I would like to clarify this point. There are two ways in which costs are determined for the use of VIP aircraft. Costs for entitled persons are at a flat rate of $3,300 per hour whereas, for non entitled persons costs are determined by a comparison with commercial aircraft. This takes into account equivalency of seat pricing on the day of travel.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely

GN Davies, AO, CSC
Air Vice-Marshal
Deputy Chief of Air Force