



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs

ACT OFFICE

28 October 2016

Mr David Sullivan
Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sullivan

I seek to correct evidence given by myself to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing on Wednesday, 19 October 2016.

On page 128 of the proof Committee Hansard in relation to a question by Senator Gallacher about the number of external rehabilitation providers engaged by the Department I stated:
"We select rehabilitation providers from the Comcare panel. They have about 130 people on their panel. We require our rehabilitation providers to have additional DVA experience or experience working with veterans. We presently have 38 providers who have met our additional requirements, so we are working with 38 rehabilitation providers. I will take on notice your question about the expenditure. We do not contract those providers. We do not have a specific contract. As I said, they are selected from the Comcare panel, but only those who meet our specific Veterans' Affairs requirements that we have introduced recently have work given to them by DVA to do work on rehabilitation of veterans."

At the commencement of the process to have providers meet the additional DVA requirements 38 individual organisations were invited to participate. Over time leading to the new requirements coming into effect from 1 July 2016 this number varied as some organisations did not seek to participate and others sought inclusion. At this time the actual number of providers who have met DVA requirements is 34.

I would also seek to clarify the response regarding the number of providers on the Comcare panel. My response should have stated there are about 130 provider companies.

The correct information is:

"We select rehabilitation providers from the Comcare panel. They have about 130 service providers on their panel. We require our rehabilitation providers to have additional DVA experience or experience working with veterans. We presently have 34 providers who have met our additional requirements, so we are working with 34 rehabilitation providers. I will take on notice your question about the expenditure. We do not contract those providers. We do not have a specific contract. As I said, they are selected from the Comcare panel, but only those who meet our specific Veterans' Affairs requirements that we have introduced recently have work given to them by DVA to do work on rehabilitation of veterans."

I would be grateful if you could provide this correction to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

~~Neil Bayles~~
Assistant Secretary
Rehabilitation, Case Escalation and MRCA Review
Department of Veterans' Affairs