



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**

**Secretary**

09/567-01

27 March 2009

Mr Peter Hallahan  
Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Hallahan

I am writing to clarify an aspect of the evidence I gave at the Committee's Estimates hearing on 23 February 2009.

On page 113 of the Hansard, in response to a question about the Federal Financial Relations Bill, I commented that '...there are some payments that are made for liaison officers in relation to classification. These are officers, I think, where we fund the states. They go around and see whether the classification scheme is being properly enforced and upheld. I am informed that the program may be captured by this legislation'.

I wish to clarify that the Department has an appropriation in the 2008-09 budget called the Administration of the National Classification Scheme. This appropriation covers payments to the States and Territories under the 1995 Intergovernmental Agreement for a revised co-operative legislative scheme for censorship in Australia. The payments are for annual revenue foregone from classification fee sharing arrangements that were in place prior to the 1995 agreement. The payments to the States and Territories are reduced by the amount of their contribution to fifty percent of the cost of the Classification Liaison Scheme.

This appropriation will be covered by the new Federal Financial Relations Framework.

Yours sincerely

Roger Wilkins AO  
Secretary