



A/g Assistant Secretary
Katie Millar

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Education and Employment
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Corrections to Evidence – Additional Estimates 12 February 2026

I am writing in relation to the Education and Employment Senate Estimates –
Legislation Committee hearing of 12 February 2026.

On behalf of the Department of Education and portfolio entities, I attach
clarifications to the evidence provided to the Committee at this hearing.
(Attachment A).

Yours sincerely



Ms Katie Millar
A/g Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary, Audit and Risk Branch
People, Parliamentary and Communications Division
Australian Government Department of Education

27 March 2026

**Corrections to Evidence from 2025–26 Additional Estimates hearing
Thursday 12 February 2026**

Witness Name: Ms Brighton

Hansard Reference: page 12

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning NATSIPA (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Corporation)

The Hansard states:

The department is working very closely with NATSIPA, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Principals Association, as well as NATSIEC, which is the **First Nations education corporation**, on the development of that strategy. Consultation is well advanced, and perhaps Ms Samuelson can just talk a little bit about that.

The corrected statement is:

The department is working very closely with NATSIPA, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Principals Association, as well as NATSIEC, which is the **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Corporation**, on the development of that strategy. Consultation is well advanced, and perhaps Ms Samuelson can just talk a little bit about that.

Witness Name: Ms Brighton

Hansard Reference: Page 13

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning National Teacher Workforce Action Plan

The Hansard states:

The government invested over **\$330 million** in the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan, and that was everything from additional places in teaching education to, importantly, a Commonwealth teaching scholarship.

The corrected statement is:

The government invested over **\$477 million** in the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan, and that was everything from additional places in teaching education to, importantly, a Commonwealth teaching scholarship.

Witness Name: Mr Cook

Hansard Reference: page 18

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning Thriving Kids and currently provided “national student support.”

The Hansard states:

Mr Cook: And we do provide support through national student support. I think Dr Rocha said it was **\$50-something million that we provide, as well as states and territories**. But I'll see whether Ms Brighton can help.

The corrected statement is:

Mr Cook: And we do provide support through national student support. I think Dr Rocha said it was **\$35 million that we are providing over the forwards specifically to help students with autism. State and territories also provide their own supports for students**. But I'll see whether Ms Brighton can help.

Witness Name: Mrs Banerjee

Hansard Reference: page 25

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning National Respectful Relationships Education Expert Working Group membership status of Heather Clarke and Dr Newton.

The Hansard states:

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Heather Clarke?

Mrs Banerjee: **Yes, she is.**

The corrected statement is: No, she is not.

Witness Name: Mrs Banerjee

Hansard Reference: page 25

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning National Respectful Relationships Education Expert Working Group membership status of Heather Clarke and Dr Newton.

The Hansard states:

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Dr Newton?

Mrs Banerjee: **I don't believe so.**

The corrected statement is: No, she is not.

Witness Name: Mrs Banerjee

Hansard Reference: page 26

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the National Respectful Relationships Education Framework

The Hansard states:

There was a report and a review. The report wasn't made public and the review was. I will clarify that.

The corrected statement is:

There was a Rapid Review Report and a Final Report. Neither report was made public [as at 12 February 2026].

Witness Name: Mr Reed

Hansard Reference: page 56

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning educators that are covered by a worker retention payment grant.

The Hansard states:

That's about 205,000 educators that are covered by a worker retention payment grant.

The corrected statement is:

That's about **209,000** educators that are covered by a worker retention payment grant.

Witness Name: Mr Reed

Hansard Reference: page 56

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the worker retention payment.

The Hansard states:

It captured some of those services that had exceeded the first-year fee constraint but not exceeded the two-year **community** fee constraint and allowed them into the program.

The corrected statement is:

It captured some of those services that had exceeded the first-year fee constraint but not exceeded the two-year **combined** fee constraint and allowed them into the program.

Witness Name: Ms Arcaro

Hansard Reference: page 62

Evidence Correction:

On the topic of concerning capital expenditure to support ongoing operational costs in underserved communities.

The Hansard states:

Ms Arcaro: In relation to the building fund, **nothing's been committed at the moment, but it has been announced that there will be \$10 million, or up to \$40 million across the period of the building fund**, to support services who will need operational funding as part of that investment.

The corrected statement is:

In relation to the Building Fund, **one commitment has been made for operational funding at the moment, and it has been announced that there will be up to \$40 million across the period of the building fund**, to support services who will need operational funding as part of that investment.

Witness Name: Ms Sandercock

Hansard Reference: page 83

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning selection criteria for 2026 university international student allocations.

The Hansard states:

The selection criteria—and they **are publicly available; the guidelines are published**—are: efforts to diversify into South-East Asia and to reduce reliance on any one particular international student cohort, as a risk strategy; investment in increasing student accommodation; and boosting regional delivery, under exceptional circumstances.

The corrected statement is:

The selection criteria— and they **were publicised; and the full guidelines were distributed to all public universities** —are: efforts to diversify into South-East Asia and to reduce reliance on any one particular international student cohort, as a risk strategy; investment in increasing student accommodation; and boosting regional delivery, under exceptional circumstances.

Witness Name: Professor Shergold

Hansard Reference: page 92

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning Macquarie Universities investigation into Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah

The Hansard states:

Prof. Shergold: I will take that, simply because, unfortunately, I think I was the only one here at the time this began. You are quite right. At the start of last year, there were reports in the media that suggested that Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah had not used the grant that she had received as a Future Fellow from the ARC in the ways that were intended, and **we immediately began an investigation**, and then, I think within a couple of days, on 31 January—you're right—Minister Clare wrote to me at the ARC asking us to investigate that issue.

The corrected statement is:

Prof. Shergold: I will take that, simply because, unfortunately, I think I was the only one here at the time this began. You are quite right. At the start of last year, there were reports in the media that suggested that Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah had not used the grant that she had received as a Future Fellow from the ARC in the ways that were intended, and **we requested Macquarie University to do an investigation**, and then, I think within a couple of days, on 31 January—you're right—Minister Clare wrote to me at the ARC asking us to investigate that issue.

Witness Name: Professor Shergold

Hansard Reference: page 95

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning decisions made on grants

The Hansard states:

Prof. Shergold: Let me answer that question and I'm happy to do so because the key change to the ARC legislation, as you will be aware, is that, at this stage—in most instances, not all—it is the ARC **and board** which make the decision on grants and not the minister.

The corrected statement is:

Prof. Shergold: Let me answer that question and I'm happy to do so because the key change to the ARC legislation, as you will be aware, is that, at this stage—in most instances, not all—it is the ARC **and Board** which make the decision on grants and not the minister.

Witness Name: Professor Roessner

Hansard Reference: page 100

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning existing ARC grants funded prior to current legislation

The Hansard states:

Prof. Roessner: This was funded prior to the current legislation, so there was **no** framework in place at the time. But, retrospectively, this will be determined.

The corrected statement is:

Prof. Roessner: This was funded prior to the current legislation, so there was **a different** framework in place at the time. But, retrospectively, this will be determined