



The Secretary
Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Corrections to Evidence – Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2025

I am writing in relation to evidence provided to the Education and Employment Senate Estimates Legislation Committee during the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing held on 9 October 2025.

On behalf of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and associated portfolio entities, clarification of evidence provided at the hearing is included in Attachment A.

Yours sincerely

Ms Penny Edwards
Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary and Governance Branch

19 /11/ 2025

Corrections to Evidence from 2025–26 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing 9 October 2025

Witness Name: Greg Manning

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Hansard Reference: Page 46

Evidence Correction: On the question of contracting out under the PET Fund.

The Hansard states:

‘I understood that, in relation to the PET Fund, the evidence was that you could subcontract or partner with an affiliate, and that's why I was asking the question. I'm not sure of the answer to whether or not they even met that criteria.’

The clarified evidence is:

At pages 44-46 of the Hansard, there is a line of questioning about funding provided to the ACTU as part of the Productivity Education and Training (PET) Fund and whether the ACTU can subcontract with affiliated unions.

Under each grantee's PET Fund grant agreement, a grantee may sub-contract to a third party. This is not limited to ACTU-affiliated unions.

Witness Name: Tania Rishniw

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Hansard Reference: Page 49

Evidence Correction: On the topic of Transition to Work funding

The Hansard states:

‘...the Transition to Work program **has a cap...**’

The corrected statement is:

‘...the Transition to Work program **is demand driven...**’

Witness Name: Edwina Spanos

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Hansard Reference: Page 50

Evidence Correction: On the topic of Parent Pathways

The Hansard states: ‘...There are **29** providers within that, so there are **29** separate contracts. That was a new program that started in that financial year...’

The corrected statement is: ‘...There are **28** providers within that, so there are **28** separate contracts. That was a new program that started in that financial year...’

Witness Name: Lisa Schofield

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Hansard Reference: Page 57

Evidence Correction: On the topic of tip-offs

The Hansard states:

‘...from the beginning of Workforce Australia—we received 18 tip-offs. In 2023- 24 it was 10, in 2024-25 it was 14, and we've had five so far this financial year.’

The corrected statement is:

‘...from the beginning of Workforce Australia—we received 18 tip-offs. In 2023- 24 it was 10, in 2024-25 it was 13, and we've had three so far this financial year.’

Witness Name: Lisa Schofield

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Hansard Reference: Page 58

Evidence Correction: On the topic of tip-offs

The Hansard states:

‘...in 2022-23 of the 18 that we received, nine were partially substantiated and nine were out of scope—so there wasn't anything there for us to be able to action. In 2023-24, six of them were essentially unsubstantiated and four are still under review. In 2024-25, 13 were unsubstantiated and one is still under review. And, of the five that we've received so far this year, four are unsubstantiated and one is still under review.’

The corrected statement is:

‘...in 2022-23 of the 18 that we received, nine were partially substantiated and nine were out of scope—so there wasn't anything there for us to be able to action. In 2023-24, six of them were essentially unsubstantiated and four are still under review. In 2024-25, 11 were unsubstantiated and two are still under review. And, of the three that we've received so far this year, three are still under review.’

Witness Name: Natalie James

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Hansard Reference: Page 68

Evidence Correction: On the topic of WorkFoundations and Real Jobs, Real Wages

The Hansard states: I think we would say no. We don't have unpaid internship programs. We do have some new programs that were launched in the last couple of budgets that go to providing paid employment pathways. Kim can probably talk to the WorkFoundations program and the Real Jobs, Real Wages program.

The corrected statement is: I think we would say no. We don't have unpaid internship programs. We do have some new programs that were launched in the last couple of budgets that go to providing paid employment pathways. The WorkFoundations program and the Real Jobs, Real Wages programs, which the team can probably talk to a little more if you would like.

Witness Name: Tania Rishniw

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Hansard Reference: Page 70

Evidence Correction: On the topic of Workforce Australia services licence review

The Hansard states: ‘...one of the things we’ve done is not renew a licence for Workforce Australia services. We actually did a limited approach to providers to seek Aboriginal providers specifically in Cairns and Darwin to deliver those services...’

The corrected statement is: ‘...one of the things we’ve done is not renew a licence for Workforce Australia services. We actually did a limited approach to providers to seek Aboriginal providers specifically in Darwin, Cairns and Townsville to deliver those services...’

Witness Name: Dr Booth

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Hansard Reference: Page 77

Evidence Correction: On the topic of the number of students training in private providers.

The Hansard states: In particular, the number of students in private providers in 2022, the year before the free TAFE came into effect, was 3.48 million, and that grew to 3.91 million in 2023 and 4.03 million in 2024.

The corrected statement is: In particular, the number of students in private providers in 2022, the year before the free TAFE came into effect, was 3.48 million, and that grew to 3.93 million in 2023 and 4.03 million in 2024.

Witness Name: Ms Anna Faithfull, Deputy Secretary

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Hansard Reference: Page 77

Evidence Correction: On the number of apprentices currently in training.

The Hansard states: Currently as at 31 March 2025, there are 328,830 apprentices in training.

The corrected statement is: Currently as at 31 March 2025, there are 320,830 apprentices in training.

Witness Name: Chris Enright

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2025

Hansard Reference: 92

Evidence Correction: In relation to reporting concerns about behaviour about a registered organisation

The Hansard states: Mr Enright: We've got a 'report a concern'. The ombudsman has got a similar type of function. The administrator himself has set up a whistleblower scheme within the commission.

The corrected statement is: Mr Enright: We've got a 'report a concern'. The ombudsman has got a similar type of function. The administrator himself has set up a whistleblower scheme within the CFMEU.