



Ms Ann Palmer  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Palmer,

I wish to advise of the following corrections and clarifications to the record in relation to evidence provided at the Additional Estimates hearing on 2 March 2018, regarding the Cross-Portfolio Indigenous Matters for Aboriginal Hostels Limited.

**Friday 2 March 2018**

1. Page 19

**Senator Siewert:** Can you tell me how many hostels have actually been closed, are in the process of being closed, or are proposed to be closed?

**Mr Usher:** In my tenure, zero

**Correction:** In my tenure, zero – however we have taken two properties temporarily offline, pending further review of their performance and future use. No further closures are planned.

*\*Please refer explanatory information below.*

2. Page 20

**Mr Usher:** We certainly do now. We recruited a West Australian – we'd call an expert – from WA Child Protection Services Society, who has written a full child protection policy for us.

Explanatory information re closure of hostels

AHL has closed two underperforming tertiary education hostels in Armidale (NSW) and Brisbane. These closures were approved by the Board in late 2017 following an assessment of performance and usage at both sites, and were taken offline in early 2018. Of the 13 tertiary students affected by these closures, all were supported to find alternative accommodation. In Armidale, AHL worked with a community housing provider to arrange places for affected students. In Brisbane, affected students were offered places in nearby AHL facilities. These hostels have not been placed on the market for sale, in effect they have been taken offline until such time as AHL can work with stakeholders to generate more viable options for their continued use. During the course of normal operations AHL may need to temporarily close a site to undertake refurbishment or other works, and may close the site to ensure the safety of residents. This is currently the case at one hostel in Melbourne, which will re-open as soon as works are completed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before the Committee. Should you require further information, please contact Peter Perfrement, Director Strategy and Business Planning

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Deavin  
Chief Finance Officer  
9 March 2018

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