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Senator Claire Chandler
Chair
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

Correction of evidence in the 2021-22 Budget Estimates Official Committee Hansard

I am writing to correct evidence I provided during my appearance before the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee at the 2021-22 Budget Estimates hearing held on Monday 24 May 2021.

In answering a question from Senator Tim Ayres regarding the number of contacts identified by COVIDSafe, I said: the updated numbers as at 19 May 2021 are that COVIDSafe has been used to identify 567 close contacts not found through manual contact tracing, and there have been 779 uploads to the National COVIDSafe Data Store (Hansard, page 83). The number of close contacts I referred to was incorrect due to an administrative error.

The correct number of contacts identified via COVIDSafe is **561**. These contacts were not otherwise identified via manual contact tracing. The 561 figure comprises 17 contacts directly identified through the upload of COVIDSafe app data and in one of these instances, app data revealed a previously unrecognised exposure date from a known venue in NSW. This resulted in the identification of an additional 544 contacts that would not have been identified without COVIDSafe. Two people in this group that presented for testing were subsequently confirmed to have COVID-19.

I would appreciate if you could please note this for the information of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Randall Brugeaud
Chief Executive Officer
Digital Transformation Agency
1 June 2021