



Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs

Dr Sean Turner
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Turner,

The Home Affairs Portfolio appeared at the Senate Budget Estimates Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee hearing from Monday 21 May 2018 to Wednesday 23 May 2018.

On behalf of witnesses from the Department of Home Affairs and the Australian Border Force I would like to provide you with clarifications of evidence (Attachment A) to ensure the correct information has been provided to the Senate Estimates Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification.

Yours sincerely

Kylie Scholten
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Executive Coordination Division
Department of Home Affairs

2 July 2018

Page number/ Date	Hansard	Correction
120 21.05.2018	<p>Mr Nockels: We have now signed a contract with Paladin Solutions. That total contract value is \$176 million—I think that was the figure you just stated. Initially we had a letter of intent with Paladin. That letter of intent, which I think I last spoke to at the previous estimates, was at \$89.2 million. The \$176 million includes that—it's not on top of that; it's subsumed by that. That contract finishes on 31 October 2018.</p>	<p>The \$176 million is on top of the Letter of Intent (LOI)—that is \$89.2 million for the LOI and an additional \$176.8 for the Contract.</p>
22 22.05.2018	<p>Mr Mansfield: The answer to your question is, yes, they have increased in the last 12 months. In March 2016, they were an average of 12 months; and, in April 2018, they're an average of 16 months. That largely reflects two factors.</p>	<p>This needs to be clarified to, in March 2017, 90% of conferral applications were processed in 12 months from lodgement of the application to conferral of citizenship, compared to 16 months in April 2018.</p>
24 22.05.2018	<p>Mr Cameron: Quite a profound engagement strategy including, from memory, nine workshops around the country to ensure that there was national agreement. The 'N' in NDRRA is 'National' so we wanted to make sure we were all on the same page, as it were.</p>	<p>The N actually stands for "Natural", the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).</p>
25 22.05.2018	<p>Mr Pezzullo: The officers have stated the assessment is made under the law, and we just follow the steps laid out in the Migration Act.</p>	<p>Assessments of applications for Australian citizenship are made under the <i>Citizenship Act 2007</i>.</p>
33 22.05.2018	<p>Mr Pezzullo: It's a publication, but we'll send the committee secretary a link to the document. It's publicly available. We'll also send the Treasurer's—it was a joint study that the Treasury and Home Affairs did, released by the two secretaries, myself and Secretary Fraser. Mr Morrison, on the day of its release, put a statement over the top of it summarising the net positive benefits of migration. We'll send that as well.</p>	<p>The Treasurer did not issue a press release regarding the report.</p>
45 22.05.2018 Continue page 2	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Thank you. The current migration program scope and size has, in the past, been identified as much more centric to the budget framework. This year it appears to have been presented as part of the regional program, the migration program, in Home Affairs. Is that a change in procedure? Regional Australia, stronger economy, delivering stronger regions, page 115 is where I find the—</p> <p>Mr Pezzullo: I'm happy to speak to the budget measures document that pertains to Home Affairs. How the overall budget papers were constructed, I</p>	<p>Senator Carr refers to the Ministerial Statement 'Regional Australia –A Stronger Economy Delivering Stronger Regions 2018-19' prepared by the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities. It is jointly released by the Honourable Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the Honourable Dr John McVeigh MP, Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government.</p>

	<p>would ask that those questions be referred to the Treasury and, as appropriate, to the finance department—unless Ms Cargill has got additional elimination that she might wish to provide.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Any advice you can tell me as to why there's been a change—</p> <p>Mr Pezullo: I think the budget paper to which you refer is a general whole-of-government paper. From memory, it's the Treasury that puts it together, but I might be mistaken about that. But, if Ms Cargill is still around, she might be able to answer that question.</p> <p>Ms Cargill: I've got nothing to add to the secretary's response. There was no specific budget measure in our portfolio budget statement related to the size of the migration program.</p>	<p>As such, this document is not put together by Treasury as referred to in the Hansard.</p>
<p>112 22.05.2018</p>	<p>Ms Geddes: We are the administrator.</p> <p>Mr Pezullo: So who owns the policy—which department? It might have been helpful had that been articulated earlier—</p> <p>Dr Johnson: The Department of Education and Training.</p> <p>Mr Pezullo: There you go. So, in another portfolio, you might need to direct your question, Senator—sorry, I was transitioning between Ms Noble and I, and I hadn't quite picked up the thread of your line of questioning. We're not the policy owners of the fund; we administer it principally by way of making collections.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: We will be able to supplement our questions next week, but clearly it's difficult—we need to be able to ask the questions to unpick to right place to ask them.</p> <p>Mr Pezullo: Well, I've just advised you, Senator, that the policy is owned by the department of education.</p>	<p>Responsibility for the Skilling Australians Fund (SAF) and the associated levy sits across multiple portfolios. The Department of Education and Training is responsible for administration of the Skilling Australians Fund, a training fund which supports skills development of Australians.</p> <p>The Department of Home Affairs is responsible for the collection of the Skilling Australians Fund levy from employers who sponsor overseas skilled workers, including the policy lead regarding levy exemptions and refund provisions in the 2018-19 Budget.</p>