



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Deputy Secretary
Integrity and International Group

20/9873-9

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard – Budget Estimates hearing on 26 May 2021

I write to provide a clarification to evidence I gave to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Budget Estimates hearing on 26 May 2021.

Page 111 of the transcript records the following exchanges between myself and Senator Watt:

Senator WATT: Yes, but what's the legislation going to say? What's the proposed date, pursuant to the legislation?

Ms Chidgey: At the moment there's a six-month implementation period once the legislation is passed.

...

Senator WATT: ...Your evidence was that there'll be about a six-month implementation period once the legislation has passed?

Ms Chidgey: Yes. In the legislation as it currently stands – to recruit staff and to set it up.

I wish to clarify that the exposure draft Commonwealth Integrity Commission (CIC) legislation does not currently specify a six month implementation period once the legislation has been passed by the Parliament. It provides for commencement by proclamation. The department anticipates that the CIC will be able to commence operation around six months after the passage of the legislation, and is working on this basis in planning for the CIC's establishment.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Chidgey
30 June 2021