OSEC EC21-005250

Senator Sarah Henderson
Committee Chair
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

The Home Affairs Portfolio appeared at the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Budget Estimates hearings on 24-25 May 2021.

Following review of the Hansard transcript and question on notice BE21-112, I wish to clarify the evidence I gave regarding my ANZAC Day 2021 message.

I did not canvas for endorsement or approval my ANZAC Day 2021 message with anyone. A number of Departmental colleagues assisted in the drafting process. I also, on Friday 23 April 2021, sent a draft of my message to the Hon Andrew Hastie MP, Member for Canning, as it contained a reference to the address by General Douglas MacArthur to West Point cadets in 1962. I had been reminded of the MacArthur address after reading a media report of the Member for Canning's reference to it in a newsletter to his constituents. I did not seek any endorsement or approval from the Member for Canning.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification.

Yours sincerely

Michael Pezzullo AO
Secretary
Department of Home Affairs

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