



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Senator the Hon Nita Green
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 Estimates Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee hearing on 28 November 2022.

In his capacity as Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs, Michael Pezzullo AO gave evidence to the Committee. In relation to the testimony, I have become aware of the need to correct a response made to a question from Senator James Patterson.

The particular reference for correction is on page 76 in response to the question from Senator Patterson

When was the first meeting at which you were present, or an official from the department was present and the minister was speaking to Medibank?

The response was to take the question on notice. In the response to the Question on Notice (OBE22-029), the following statement was made

The Department notes the Australian Signals Directorate is providing a separate timeline of its actions to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.

Subsequently, I have been advised by the Australian Signals Directorate that this response is not an accurate reflection of the matter and that sentence should be removed from the evidence and not replaced.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification, which will ensure that correct information has been provided to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely

Marc Ablong PSM
Deputy Secretary
Department of Home Affairs

23 January 2023