



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Deputy Secretary
Justice and Communities Group

30 October 2025

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

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard – Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 7 October 2025

I am writing to clarify evidence I provided to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 7 October 2025.

On page 20 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Shoebridge regarding the Justice Policy Partnership, I said:

Ms Harvey: Under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, there are those four priority reforms. One part of priority reform 2 is to have, initially, five policy partnership established, which were designed to progress particular outcomes that all governments have signed up to under the Closing the Gap agreement. It was to be done collectively. The Commonwealth certainly co-chairs and provides the secretariat for that, but it is made up of all governments and independent members.

On page 29 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Shoebridge regarding the Justice Policy Partnership, I said:

Ms Harvey: As I mentioned earlier, the policy partnerships are established under the Closing the Gap agreement, which every government in this country agreed to. It was not set up by the Commonwealth. It is under priority reform 2, and one of the commitments made was to have five policy partnerships. It's not set up by the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth co-chairs it with NATSILS. We co-have the secretariat. Each of those governments is an equal representative in that, as are the independents and the Coalition of Peaks members. It's important to note that this isn't a Commonwealth body.

In both instances, the reference to priority reform 2 was incorrect. Priority reform 2 under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap concerns building the community-controlled sector. The correct priority reform is priority reform 1, concerning formal partnerships and shared decision-making.

Yours sincerely



Tamsyn Harvey
Deputy Secretary
Justice and Communities Group