



VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA - NEW SOUTH WALES CHAPTER INC.

CỘNG ĐỒNG NGƯỜI VIỆT TỰ DO ÚC CHÂU
TIỂU BANG NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

ABN 21 583 509 480

P.O. BOX 34 BANKSTOWN NSW 1885

Tel: (02) 9790 3934 - (02) 9796 8035

Fax: (02) 9796 3794

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Ms Megan Jones
Community Affairs References Committee
Australian Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senators

Re: Additional Information Relating to Statements made by Tan Thi Nguyen in the Public Hearing Held 3 July 2015

Thank you for inviting me to meet with you and speak about the impact of the loss of funding from the Department of Social Services on the Vietnamese Community in Australia - NSW Chapter, and how it impacts people recently arrived from Vietnam. This was the first time I have been in Parliament House and the first time I have been involved in such a meeting and I found it a little overwhelming.

I have read the transcript of the Hearing and must explain my intended meaning. As you would be aware, English is not my first language and I believe that the transcript does not make my meaning clear. I would like to provide some information to ensure the record is more accurate.

On page 9 of the transcript, where I am answering a question from Senator Peris, I make two references to having funding cut 'straightaway'. These references are in line two of the first paragraph and line one of the second paragraph.

The Settlement Grants Program and Money Management Project funding was originally intended to cease operations in June 2014. The Department of Social Services then extended funding for these programs for six months, with the services intended to close on 31 December 2014. Near to the closure date, the Department then extended the funding for the services until 28 February 2015. Again, close to the final date, the Department extended funding until 30 June 2015. These extensions of funding were

intended to continue the provision of settlement and financial management services to the Vietnamese community in the Vietnamese language.

As a result of the three extensions to the cessation of funding to enable services to be continued, the community, staff and organisations were hopeful that funding would be again extended. This hope was encouraged by the provision of 'gap' funding being available to ensure funding for areas where the new funding process had not delivered any services to particular communities. As there are no settlement services for the Vietnamese community funding as part of the 2014 funding process, there was an expectation that gap funding would be provided to the Vietnamese Community in Australia - NSW Chapter.

Gap funding was announced very late on 10 June 2015 and our organisation was not aware of the decision immediately. The Vietnamese Community in Australia – NSW Chapter, did not receive funding as part of this gap funding. This gave the organisation and community approximately two weeks' notice of the discontinuation of funding and required the services to effectively cease straightaway.

On page 9, on line 3, in response to the same question by Senator Peris, I state that "*They have now been cut and there is no-one at the office...*". I would like to clarify that I am referring to the staff that had been employed as part of the Settlement Grants Program and Money Management Project. In the statement on behalf of all attendees from Fairfield made by Ms Gibbeson at the commencement of the Hearing, the position is clearly stated. The Vietnamese Community in Australia office has no staff for settlement and financial management matters and only has two remaining staff that are funded to provide counselling for problem gambling.

I am very sorry for any miscommunication and trust this letter clarifies the meaning of my statements made on 3 July 2015.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further clarification or information. Thank you again for the opportunity to attend the Public Hearing for this Inquiry.

Yours faithfully



Tan Thi Nguyen