



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Dr Ian Holland
A/g Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Dr Holland

**Request for Amendment to Evidence Provided at the Senate Community Affairs
Legislation Committee Hearing,
On Friday 3 June 2011 : Outcome: Cross Portfolio Indigenous Matters**

I am writing to correct a statement that I made at the Budget Estimates of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on Friday 3 June 2011.

Senator Eggleston asked the following question:

“ I would have thought most of them actually direct billed Medicare for services provided, is that not the case?”

My response was as follows:

“Most of them do, you have to be a registered and accredited practice to be eligible for that and most of them are and most of them do, but I do not think all of them.”

It has been brought to my notice that accreditation is required for participation in the Practice Incentives Program but for a Medicare benefit to be payable the provider needs only to have a provider number issued by Medicare Australia and the response should now be amended as follows (changes are underlined):

“Most of them do. Providers have to be registered with Medicare Australia and have a provider number for each location at which they provide services for a Medicare benefit to be payable.”

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Linda Powell'.

Linda Powell
First Assistant Secretary
Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
6 July 2011