



Dr Ian Holland
Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

**Request for Amendment to Evidence Provided at Budget Estimates Hearing,
29 May 2012: Department of Human Services**

I am writing to correct a statement that I made at the Budget Estimates Hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 29 May 2012.

At page 101 of the Proof Committee Hansard, Senator Fifield asked the following question:

“That is right. Most salient question was: is a two-year residency requirement needed to claim the pair parental leave, baby bonus or the family tax benefit?”

My response (at pages 101-102) was as follows:

“That is the area where it varies depending on how the person came in, what their own status is in terms of residency and length of stay but also whether they are here on a visa, whether they are a New Zealand passport holder and so on. Then there are rules around how long they can take an absence. Your follow-up question was: what if they were to depart? Again, there are different rules depending on their status about how long the payment might be made. There might be a limit of up to 13 weeks or it might be some years. Again, it depends on the status of the individual.”

On reviewing the transcript, it appears that I may have misinterpreted the question, and my response could be clarified to reflect the question asked. The response should be amended to read:

“No.”

Yours sincerely

Barry Sandison
Deputy Secretary
Participation, Families and Older Australians

8 July 2012