

Senator Zed Seselja
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Correction of evidence to 2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearing, 4 June 2014

I am writing to correct evidence I provided to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee during its examination of the Department of Social Services in the 2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearing on 4 June 2014.

In answering a question from Senator Jan McLucas, I said: The average duration on payment for an age pensioner is 304.8 weeks'. (Hansard, Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Estimates, Wednesday 4 June 2014, Proof Copy, page 105, refers).

Over the course of further questions and answers about the Age Pension, the '304.8 weeks' figure is referenced six more times in the same Hansard by Senator McLucas and Ms Serena Wilson, on pages 105 and 106.

It has come to my attention that the '304.8 weeks' is incorrect and I would like to correct the record. The average duration of receipt of the Age Pension is 565.9 weeks (as at 31 March 2014).

Yours sincerely

Cath Halbert Group Manager

Payments Policy Group

4 July 2014