



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
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing,
19 October 2011: Outcome 12 – Health Workforce Capacity**

I am writing to correct a statement that I made at the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 19 October 2011.

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked the following question:

“Earlier we were talking about mental health with regard to the workforce and the big picture. Are you now in the position to better provide information in terms of a snapshot of the mental health workforce in Australia and the aged care workforce? Do you have some statistics around that.”

My response was as follows:

“... We will be providing the report to the Australian Health Ministers Conference at the end of 2012, and that will contain a consolidated set of information about workforce projections,....”

The response was incorrect at the time and it was not realised at that time that an incorrect date had been provided. It should be:

“... We will be providing the report to the Australian Health Ministers Conference at the end of 2011, and that will contain a consolidated set of information about workforce projections,....”

The mistake was subsequently repeated when Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked the following question:

“But you will be releasing information as you complete it rather than waiting until the end of 2012?”

My response was as follows:

“The report will not be finalised until the end of 2012”

The response should have stated:

‘The report will not be finalised until the end of 2011’.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Cormack', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Cormack
Chief Executive Officer
Health Workforce Australia

21 October 2011