



Wednesday, 9 November 2016

Senator David Bushby
Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Bushby

The Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner (the Office) appeared before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on 18 October 2016.

During the hearing Senator Urquhart asked the Office's acting Commissioner, Ms Andree Wright, a number of questions regarding the status of the \$7.5m funding program provided to schools to access accredited online safety programs as per the following ('*Proof Committee Hansard*' of 18 October 2016, p33):

Senator URQUHART: Has any of the funding been delivered to schools?

Ms Wright: Our understanding is that the funding model goes through the education department in the relevant state or territory and the overarching body, if you like, which aggregates schools rather than providing it to individual schools. That was part of the model that was agreed. It was seen to be a streamlined way of providing the funding.

Senator URQUHART: Do you know how much of the funding has actually been delivered?

Ms Wright: The funding for the first full year, as I said, will go through a process because it will cover the 2016 year. By February next year—

After reading the Hansard transcript, the Office considers that further clarification at this point would assist the Committee to understand what funding has been provided to date to aggregate bodies (as opposed to individual schools). The following sentence provides this clarification:

There was a sign-on payment allocated to the various participating State and Territory aggregating bodies in mid-2016 totalling \$935,137.90.

I trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Wise

Business Manager
Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner