



Australian Government

Department of Education and Training

Associate Secretary
Tony Cook PSM

Committee Secretary
Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I am writing in relation to the Education and Employment Legislation Committee's 2017–18 Budget Estimates hearing on Thursday 1 June 2017.

I wish to correct evidence that I presented to the Committee in response to questions from Senator James Paterson and Senator Jacinta Collins (pages 74 to 76 of the Proof Hansard refer) concerning the calculation of socioeconomic status to inform school funding arrangements.

I inadvertently described Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) data as a 'mesh block'. However, as Australian Bureau of Statistics officials and I subsequently discussed with the Committee during its hearings on the Australian Education Amendment Bill 2017 on Monday 5 June 2017 (pages 57 to 58 of the Proof Hansard refer), mesh blocks represent the smallest geographical unit for Census data collection. These are then aggregated to form SA1s.

I would appreciate it if you could draw this fact to the attention of the Committee and relay my apologies for any inconvenience.

Yours sincerely

Tony Cook

8 June 2017

Opportunity through learning