



Australian Government
Department of Employment

Deputy Secretary, Employment
Martin Hehir

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Education and Employment
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Request to clarify testimony in Senate Estimates – 29 May 2017

I wish to clarify two pieces of evidence in my testimony of 29 May 2017 to the Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment. As recorded on page 29 of the Hansard, I stated that if a person has their payment cancelled as a result of persistent non-compliance under the new targeted compliance framework, payments such as Rent Assistance would continue and these individuals would have access to the crisis assistance fund.

Under the new targeted compliance framework, a job seeker who is cancelled from payment for repeated non-compliance will not receive any income support payment or supplement that is directly contingent on eligibility for their participation payment. However, payments and supplements paid as part of Family Tax Benefit, which can include Rent Assistance, would continue to be paid.

Further, when I mentioned access to the crisis assistance fund, I was using the term generally to refer to support during crises delivered by welfare organisations and funded under the Emergency Relief program administered by the Department of Social Services, rather than to the Crisis Payment administered by the Department of Human Services.

Yours sincerely

Martin Hehir

3 July 2017

