



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Strategy and Delivery Division

15/5497-04

18 June 2015

Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dunstone

Clarifications and corrections to Hansard

I write to you concerning evidence provided by officers from the Attorney-General's Portfolio to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Budget Estimates hearing on 27 and 28 May 2015.

Officers from the Portfolio who provided evidence to the Committee have identified the following clarifications for both the 27 and 28 May 2015 hearing days.

Evidence of Mr David Fredericks, Deputy Secretary, Civil Justice and Legal Services Group

On page 84 of the Wednesday 27 May 2015 transcript, in an exchange between Mr Frederick's and Senator O'Sullivan, Mr Frederick's stated:

Mr Fredericks: On those numbers, it is worth noting that, in the 2013 calendar year, the Federal Court collected \$24.6 million in revenue. There was then the fee increase that the Attorney and Dr Smrdel described implemented on 1 January 2013. In the 2014 calendar year, the Federal Court only collected \$12.8 million. So it went from \$24.6 million in annual revenue to \$12.8 million in annual revenue.

The Attorney-General's Department would like to clarify that the fee increase was implemented on 1 January 2014.

Evidence of Mr Manning, First Assistant Secretary, Access to Justice Division

On page 90 of the Wednesday 27 May 2015 transcript, in an exchange between Mr Manning and Senator Bilyk on the certainty of funding for the Redfern Legal Centre:

Senator Bilyk: So the legal services are up in the air about whether they are going to get funding or not, aren't they?

Mr Manning: Not completely, in the sense that Redfern is one of the centres which were a beneficiary of the decision the Attorney was speaking about earlier in relation to reversing the proposed cuts, so it has certainty of funding in relation to that amount. In relation to the remainder

of its budget that is sourced under this particular program, it does not have certainty about that yet, but we would imagine that, given the extra funds going into New South Wales, there will be a very high degree of certainty for CLCs in that jurisdiction for next year, with the planning to come.

The Attorney-General's Department would like to clarify that the Redfern Legal Centre's current level of Commonwealth community legal services funding will be guaranteed under the new National Partnership Agreement for the next two financial years. The Redfern Legal Centre may receive additional funds under that programme due to the increased community legal centre funding for New South Wales; this will be a matter for New South Wales to determine.

Finally, officers have identified a number of corrections to the *Hansard* of 27 and 28 May 2015, and these are indicated at Attachment A.

Yours sincerely

Tara Cheyne
Acting Director
Strategy and Delivery Division