



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

File Number: 11/6119

14 June 2012
Senator Anne McEwen
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator McEwen

I write to correct evidence given to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee Estimates hearing on 30 May 2012.

The corrected evidence addresses an answer provided to Senator Eggleston in response to a question he asked about whether Australia's Ambassador to France, Mr Ric Wells, had presented his credentials yet (page 84, line 18).

Mr Richardson (Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) answered (page 84, lines 19 - 21) 'Yes'.

This answer is incorrect. Ambassador Wells had not, and is yet to present credentials, the delay having been caused by the 2012 French Presidential elections. Paris Embassy believes Ambassador Wells will have an opportunity to present credentials on 11 July.

Further, Mr Richardson took on notice a question from Senator Eggleston (page 84, line 23-24) requesting the date which credentials were presented. Assuming that Mr Wells is able to present credentials on 11 July, we will be able to advise in response to this Question on Notice.

Yours sincerely

Ms Sally Mansfield
Chief of Protocol