



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dr Kathleen Dermody
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

I seek to make corrections to evidence given to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Budget Estimates Hearing on 4 June 2013.

In my opening statement, on page 75, it is stated that I attended the launch of our mental health strategy on 28 May. This is incorrect and the date should read 27 May.

On page 82 of the proof Committee Hansard, in answering a question concerning the layout and the co-location of the Southport and Gold Coast offices, Mr Carmody states that 'Southport runs out in December 2014'. This is incorrect and Mr Carmody has advised that the correct date is June 2014.

On page 86, in answering a question concerning peacetime service, Mr Bayles stated: 'It is my understanding that that date was chosen in order to make sure that all peacetime service has access to the non-liability healthcare provision. If the recommendation provided in 25(1)(a) had been accepted by government, the consequence would have been that you would have had a group who had service prior to 1994 who were eligible for non-liability health care for psychiatric conditions; a group after 1994 that would have had eligibility for non-liability health care; and a group in the middle, with service between 1972 and 1994, who would not have had access to non-liability health care'.

This is incorrect and should be as follows; 'It is my understanding that that date was chosen in order to make sure that all peacetime service has access to the non-liability healthcare provision. If the recommendation provided in 25(1)(a) had been accepted by government, the consequence would have been that you would have had a group who had service prior to 1994 who were eligible for non-liability health care for psychiatric conditions; a group after 2004 that would have had eligibility for non-liability health care; and a group in the middle, with service between 1994 and 2004, who would not have had access to non-liability health care'.

On page 88, in answering a question concerning times taken to process MRCA liability claims, Mr Sadiq stated: 'For the 12 months ending March 2013, the mean time taken to process was 155 days'. This is incorrect and should be as follows: 'For the 2012-13 financial year up to 31 March 2013, the average time to process was 155 days'. And on page 89, in answering another question

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on the same topic, Mr Sadiq stated: 'The mean time taken to process as at the end of June 2012 was 162 days. As at the end of March 2012 it was 156 days on average'. This is incorrect and should be as follows: 'The average time taken to process for the month ending 30 June 2012 was 162 days. For the 2011-12 financial year up to 31 March 2012 it was 156 days on average'.

On page 94, in answering a question concerning the veteran and community grants program, Mr Magor stated: 'Again, \$2.5 million'. This is incorrect and should be as follows: '\$2.6 million'.

Also on page 97, in answering a question concerning the Anzac Centenary Public Fund, I stated: 'There is a determination instruction which has been drafted'. This is incorrect and I would like the correction to read, 'There is a determination instrument which has been drafted'.

Yours sincerely

S. Lewis PSM
Secretary

// July 2013