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CHIEF OF  
THE DEFENCE FORCE

CDF/OUT/2012/1031

**Dr K. DERMODY**

Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
PO Box 7900  
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Dear Secretary,

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 17 October 2012.

During my opening statement (see page 9 of the *Proof Hansard*) I stated:

‘After six years in East Timor, we are now planning the drawdown of the Australian led International Security Assistance Force in parallel with the planned drawdown of the United Nations’ mission in Timor Leste.’

This should read:

‘After six years in East Timor, we are now planning the drawdown of the Australian led International Stabilisation Force in parallel with the planned drawdown of the United Nations’ mission in Timor Leste.’

Additionally, in my opening statement I incorrectly referred to Ms Elizabeth Broderick as the Human Rights Commissioner, when she is in fact the Sex Discrimination Commissioner.

Senator Rhiannon also asked me a series of questions in relation to the cost of delivering ODA in Afghanistan. Her questions were based on information provided in response to Question on Notice 41 from the May 2012 Budget Estimates Hearing. Since that time, it has been brought to my attention that the Defence response to Question 41 contained incorrect costs that were not ODA eligible, including some Force Protection costs. The data provided may have inadvertently given the impression that the cost of delivering ODA was significantly higher than the correct figure.

The evidence I provided at Estimates (see page 84 of the *Proof Hansard*) was as follows:

‘My brief says that, in accordance with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development Assistance Committee reporting guidelines on ODA, the ADF’s personnel costs associated with delivering ODA in Afghanistan include military employee and support costs for ADF personnel undertaking reconstruction tasks. These costs include personnel costs which consist of the payment of international campaign allowance, additional accrued leave entitlements, separation and field allowance. In addition to these personnel costs, support costs are also ODA eligible and consist of logistics costs support for ADF personnel such as rations, water, base support, electricity generation, maintenance and vehicle running costs. It should be noted that these costs exclude the cost of the ADF personnel providing force protection to the reconstruction force, so it is really only those doing the reconstruction work or the actual task.’

Whilst that statement I made is correct in terms of what costs are actually ODA eligible - 'these costs exclude the cost of the ADF personnel providing force protection to the reconstruction force, so it is really only those doing the reconstruction work or the actual task,' - the costs on which Senator Rhiannon based her question incorrectly included the cost of force protection. Question on Notice 41 has been amended to include the correct figures and has been provided to the Committee separately.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen from the above issues.

Yours sincerely,



**Ð.J. HURLEY, AC, DSC**  
General  
Chief of the Defence Force

11 November 2012