



Australian Government

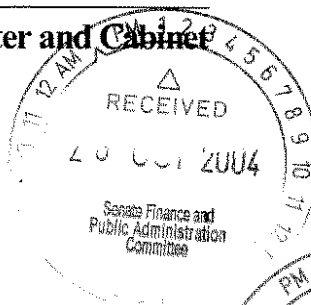
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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3-5 NATIONAL CIRCUIT
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

Mr Alistair Sands
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Sands

I am writing to correct the evidence I provided to the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration at the Senate Estimates hearing of 16 February 2004 in relation to the total expenses for the retreat of Secretaries and Agency Heads held on 8-9 August 2003.

The figure I provided to the Committee for the total cost of the Retreat was \$15,175. In tallying the final costs for the use of the HC Coombs Training Centre for Financial Studies for this year's retreat (held 23-24 July) it has been discovered that we omitted to include a \$2600 deposit for the use of the Centre in last year's costs. When correctly including the deposit, the total cost of the Retreat in 2003 was \$17,715.

Please accept my apologies for the incorrect evidence initially provided to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Belcher
First Assistant Secretary
Government Division

22 October 2004