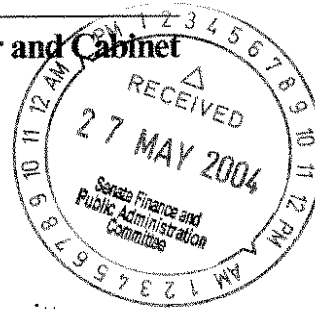




**Australian Government**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

TELEPHONE: (02) 6271 5111  
FACSIMILE: (02) 6271 5414



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

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



Dear Mr Sands

I would like to correct evidence I gave to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee on 25 May 2004 in relation to questions from Senator Faulkner about the HREOC report *A last resort?*.

Senator Faulkner asked (Senate Legislation Hansard F&PA 69): "Do we know whether HREOC's report *A last resort?* was available to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet prior to its being handed down or made public?" It was established at the time that Senator Faulkner was asking whether we saw a draft or a final draft.

I said at the time: "We did have a copy of the final report before it was released, and that was provided at the branch head level – SES Band 1. ... I understand it was a final report. It was not a draft report."

Following consultation with relevant staff, I would now like to supplement my evidence. In addition to receiving a copy of the final HREOC report, under embargo, the department did in fact receive copies of draft versions of the HREOC report, in or about June or July 2003 and in December 2003. These copies were provided to PM&C by DIMIA, for information.

The department's answers to Senator Faulkner's questions relating to the report will be provided in due course, in the normal way.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Scott  
Deputy Secretary  
26 May 2004