



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

Helen Williams AO
Secretary

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Palethorpe

I am writing to you in relation to evidence provided by officers from the Department of Human Services (DHS) at the 24 May 2007 Budget Estimates hearings of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration (the Committee).

Following the hearings, officers from DHS who appeared before the Committee have reviewed the proof copy of Hansard and checked departmental records. As a consequence, I would like to submit the following clarifications and corrections.

Evidence of Mr Chris Dainer

Correction of evidence

At Hansard page F&PA 78, as part of the response to a question from Senator Natasha Stott Despoja regarding funding for the Access Card, Mr Dainer said *“There were then a number of further drivers behind changes to the allocations, including a movement between expense and capital. That was of the order of \$23 million.”*

Mr Dainer advises that, due to an error in reading from a large spreadsheet, the underlined figure is incorrect and should read **\$44 million.**

Clarification of evidence

At Hansard page F&PA 109-110 the following exchange takes place:

“Senator WONG—We need to break it up. So national office reduction is 2008-09—how much is the estimated savings?”

Mr Popple—Sixteen million dollars a year.

Senator WONG—In 2009-10?

Mr Popple—Sixteen million dollars.

Senator WONG—It says \$16 million over four years.

Mr Dainer—Yes.”

Mr Dainer would like to clarify his response of "Yes" to indicate that the correct figure is "\$16 million dollars a year" as stated by Mr Jeff Popple (not \$16 million over four years as suggested by Senator Penny Wong).

Evidence of Mr Greg Divall

Correction of evidence

At Hansard page F&PA 98, in response to a question on capital appropriation from Senator Wong, Mr Divall said "*Capital is a different matter. In the DHS appropriation of \$39 million we are forecasting expenditure of only \$1.6 million.*" Mr Divall would like to advise that the underlined figure is incorrect and should read \$34.9 million, as quoted later by Mr Dainer at page F&PA 99.

Evidence of Mr Nico Padovan

Clarification of evidence

At the bottom of Hansard page F&PA 103, in response to a question from Senator Claire Moore regarding common practice relating to purchase orders, Mr Padovan asks the clarificatory question "*To establish a deed of standing for exercise work orders?*". Mr Padovan has asked that this sentence be clarified to read "*To establish a Deed of Standing offer under which Purchase Orders can be established?*"

Should you require any further information in relation to these corrections, please do not hesitate to contact the Director of our Portfolio Coordination Team, Mr Geoff Hill, on 02 6223 4573.

Yours sincerely



Helen Williams

15 June 2007