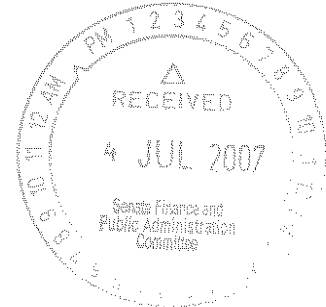




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Mr Stephen Palethorpe  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration  
Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Palethorpe

### ESTIMATES HEARING OF 24 MAY 2007 – CORRECTION TO HANSARD

I am seeking to correct a number of responses given by Medicare Australia officers to questions from Senator Lundy at the appearance of the Department of Human Services at the hearing of the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee on Thursday 24 May 2007.

Senator Lundy was seeking information on contracts relating to the access card within Medicare. I ask that the record of the following responses, provided by Medicare Australia's A/g General Manager Access Card, Mr Anthony Honeyman, be amended as follows:

On page F&PA 124:

**Mr Honeyman:** We have only three additional contractors who are providing business analyst work. We hire them off our existing panel and they work through a company called Compass.

Amend Mr Honeyman's response to read:

*There are five other contractors currently engaged who are providing business analyst work. We hired them off our existing contractor panels. Three are engaged from a company called Compass and two are from Peoplebank.*

On page F&PA 125:

**Mr Honeyman:** My understanding is that they are with us until the end of the financial year. I need to clarify that. They have been with us since November 2006 and they are with us until 30 June. The expected expenditure on that is about \$360,000.

Amend Mr Honeyman's response to read:

*The three Compass contractors commenced in January 2007 and their contracts expire by 20 July 2007. The two contractors from Peoplebank were engaged, one in March and the other in April and their contracts expire by 30 June 2007. The expected expenditure for these five contractors is \$401,544.*

On page F&PA 125:

**Mr Honeyman:** That includes the IT work; yes – for access card, yes.

Amend Mr Honeyman's response to read:

*The expense appropriation table includes the access card expenses described above at an estimate of \$4.2m for 2006/07. Following discussions with the Office of Access Card about the scope of work to be undertaken during 2006/07, this estimate was increased and agreed at \$8 million for the technical infrastructure and \$2.5 million for the bandwidth upgrade. Expenditure for 2006/07 is now expected to be \$6 million and \$2.5 million respectively.*

Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact my office on (02) 6124 6302

Yours sincerely



Catherine Argall PSM

*CA* June 2007

