



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

Ms Christine McDonald
Committee Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
SG60
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

Clarification of evidence – Proof Committee Hansard, 27 May 2010

I am writing to you in relation to evidence provided by officers from the Human Services portfolio at the 27 May 2010 Budget Estimates hearings of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration Legislation (the Committee).

Subsequent to the hearings, officers from the Human Services portfolio who appeared before the Committee have reviewed the proof copy of Hansard (FP&A, 27 May 2010) and have checked Departmental records.

As a consequence, I would like to provide further context to the evidence given on the night by Departmental officials.

F&PA page 91: Clarification in relation to the following quote:

Ms Barbour—“For the last financial year we had no communication campaigns”.

Additional information:

For this financial year, the Department of Human Services (DHS) had no communication campaigns. Last year (2008-09, we ran the Electronic Medicare Claiming campaign. The campaign funds totalled \$9.639 million; the expenditure for advertising (Universal McCann costs) totalled \$1,980,650.43.

F&PA page 106: Clarification in relation to the following quote:

Ms Barbour—“For the same-sex discrimination campaign the cost of advertising was \$1,399,163”.

Clarification:

For the same-sex discrimination campaign the cost of advertising was \$1,399,163. The campaign funds totalled \$1,899,704”.

F&PA page 108: Clarification in relation to the following quote:

Senator Fifield: *"The new policy came into effect on 14 May this year, so before 14 May in no circumstances was Centrelink treating that return of electricity to the grid or credits gained from that as income. That has only just started."*

Mr Cowan: "Yes".

Clarification:

Mr Cowan: "Yes, the new policy came into effect on 14 May."

F&PA page 108-109: Clarification in relation to the following quote:

Senator Fifield: *"So Centrelink has been providing consistent advice across Australia on this issue before 14 May advising people that it should not be counted as income, and consistent advice after 14 May that it should and would be counted as income?"*

Mr Cowan: "Yes."

Clarification:

Mr Cowan: "Yes, Centrelink has been providing consistent advice".

F&PA page 124: Correction in relation to the following quote:

Ms O'Brien—*"They are the program payments that were made under the scheme as opposed to the installers".*

Should read:

Ms O'Brien: *"They are the program payments that were made under the scheme as the payments to the installers".*

Should you require any further information in relation to the corrections listed above, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6223 4700.

Sincerely



Mr Neil Skill
Assistant Secretary
Portfolio Coordination and Parliamentary
Department of Human Services

16/7/10