



Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services



File Reference:

Senator Heffernan
Chair
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Heffernan

I write in relation to Senate Estimates hearings by the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee (the Committee) on Thursday 26 May and Friday 27 May 2005. I wish to clarify my response and to correct the record in relation to three matters.

In response to a question put by Senator Crossin regarding how often mammography services would take place in the Indian Ocean Territories (IOTs), I responded that services would be provided twice a year for a two week period each time (p104 of Hansard for Thursday 26 May refers). I wish to correct this statement. In line with other mammography services on mainland Australia, the services on Christmas Island will be provided every two years. Because of the number of women involved, the clinical team from Perth will need to fly in for two fortnights every two years.

I would also like to correct the record in relation to a question from Senator O'Brien who asked for the names of the three companies which have responded to the Request for Proposal as part of the market testing of the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (p 3 of the Hansard for Friday 27 May refers). The three companies are: Aushealth International, Australian Outback Medical Services and International SOS. In my verbal response I inadvertently referred to Aushealth International as Aushealth Medical Services.

In relation to my reply to the question from Senator O'Brien concerning why Senator Crossin was not invited to the Christmas Island Minister's visit, I unfortunately confused the visit referred to by the Senator and advised that I believed the Hon Warren Snowdon had been invited on behalf of the opposition (p22 of the Hansard for Friday 27 May refers). The visit referred to by Senator O'Brien was in fact an official Ministerial visit. All meetings and events during the visit concerned portfolio issues. As this question was taken on notice a response has been provided separately (reference TLG 47).

I apologise for any inconvenience or misapprehension that may have arisen from my earlier answers.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Wilson
General Manager
Territories
27 June 2005