



Senator Marielle Smith
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

**Clarification of evidence in the Senate Estimates Proof Committee Hansard Tuesday
30 May 2023.**

I am writing to clarify statements provided to the Committee during its examination of the Social Services Portfolio in relation to Outcome 2 Families and Communities.

In response to Senator Waters' questions relating to the decision to shift the scope of the Universities Australia activity (Hansard page 107) – specifically why the shift in focus occurred, who decided to change scope, and who was consulted in the decision, I stated:

“It was in response to feedback from universities. Through that initial advisory mechanism a broad campaign targeted at all universities wasn't the most effective way of reaching students, acknowledging that students' experiences are very much localised to the campus where they attend, so that is why the decision was made to move it from a generic campaign to something that could be more tailored according to particular needs on campus”.

“I don't have that level of detail in relation to those advisory group deliberations. I am aware End Rape on Campus was advised by Universities Australia around the shift in focus but I couldn't speculate as to what advice might have been provided to Universities Australia through that initial process.”

I would like to clarify my statement. The advice about the efficacy of a campaign targeted at all universities came through a consultation process Universities Australia had with university Vice Chancellors. It did not come through Universities Australia's Expert Working Group. It is the department's understanding that the Universities Australia Expert Working Group is aware of the decision to change the focus. However, we are unaware of how they received that advice.

Yours Sincerely,

Greta Doherty
Group Manager, Women's Safety
Department of Social Services

21 July 2023