



16 November 2021

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard – Estimates hearing on 27 October 2021

I am writing to provide a clarification to evidence given by Ms Sharon Huender, Assistant Secretary, Industrial Relations Strategy Branch, to the Senate Education and Employment Committee during the Senate Estimates hearing on 27 October 2021.

On page 20 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Davey about the regulatory technology solutions for modern awards, Ms Huender said:

Ms Huender: There was also \$2.3 million for the Attorney-General's Department to support and drive the development and the uptake of regulatory technology solutions through proactive engagement with payroll companies in the sector. A small component of that was \$400 million to administer a small grants round with the department of industry to develop a challenge for software developers in this space to encourage innovation.

I wish to clarify that \$0.4 million is allocated to administer a small grants round with the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, not \$400 million.

On page 21 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Davey regarding when the first tranche of work under the Regulatory Technology Roadmap for modern awards will be expected to be fully implemented, Ms Huender said:

Ms Huender: The first tranche of work—the Fair Work Commission API or gateway into their database and pay points is probably the most significant piece. That will be implemented by 1 July this year, or mid-year. The innovation round we're doing with the department of industry will be also completed, I understand, by 1 July.

I wish to clarify that the Fair Work Commission application programming interface (API) is expected to be completed by 1 July 2022. In relation to the grants round under the Business Research and Innovation Initiative, the department intends to have a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources by the end of the current financial year, with the grants round to commence in the second half of 2022.

The action officer for this matter is _____, who can be contacted on _____.

Yours sincerely

Henry Jones
A/g Assistant Secretary
Industrial Relations Strategy Branch