

Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

31 October 2023

Committee Secretary Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee PO Box 6100 Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard – Legal and constitutional affairs legislation hearing on 24 October 2023

I am writing to correct evidence I provided to the Senate Standing Committee on funding to deliver the Justice Policy Partnership secretariat during the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Estimates hearing on 24 October 2023.

On p41 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Cash regarding NAAJA receiving funding via the NLAP I said:

Ms Bogaart: I'll talk you through each of them. The first one is the NLAP funding. That goes to the Northern Territory government, which distributes funding to NAAJA. I confirm that the Northern Territory government, and NAAJA via them, is up-to-date on all reporting requirements, which were due on 30 June. They have been assessed as satisfactory.

I wish to clarify that reporting is for the period ending 30 June, not due on 30 June. The reporting for that period was actually due on 30 September and has since been assessed as satisfactory.

On p41 of the transcript in response to a question from Senator Cash regarding NAAJA receiving funding via the NLAP I said:

Ms Bogaart: That's No.1. The second was NATSILS' auspicing arrangements, which was \$313,000, GST exclusive. That has now been novated to the New South Wales ACT Aboriginal Legal Service. The acquittal for that is due on 30 October, so we will receive reporting from New South Wales ACT ALS on that amount next week.

I wish to clarify that the acquittal is due on 31 October 2023.

On p 42 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Cash regarding NAAJA receiving funding via the NLAP I said:

Ms Bogaart: Given that it was funding for the previous financial year, and NAAJA was performing JPP responsibilities during that period, I think that difference between \$892,000 and \$823,000 is a reasonable difference- some money had been expended.

I wish to clarify that following the hearing it has been brought to my attention that the figure of \$823,000 I quoted as the figure being novated from NAAJA to ALS NSW/ACT for the Justice Policy Partnership grant is incorrect. Confirmation of the figure to be novated is subject to the completion of a 2022-23 financial acquittal report by NAAJA, which has not yet been finalised. The department will provide the final figure to the Committee once it is confirmed.

The action officer for this matter is

who can be contacted on

Yours sincerely

Esther Bogaart