

OFFICIAL



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts**

Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I refer to the appearance of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts before the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee at the Budget Supplementary Estimates Hearing on Monday 23 October 2023.

I write to make the following corrections to evidence I provided at the hearing.

Expenditure on welcome to country and like activities

In answering questions on the expenditure of welcome to country ceremonies and like activities, I made the following statement:

Welcome to country includes arts events. It was \$26,551.95 for 2022-23 and for this financial year to 31 October. Within that figure of \$26,500, just under \$10,000 was arts-related events at relevant institutions.

I would like to make the following correction:

Welcome to country includes arts events. It was \$27,051.95 for 2022-23 and for this financial year to 31 October. Within that figure of \$27,051.95 approximately \$10,000 was for arts-related events at relevant institutions.

Questions on Notice

In my opening statement (refer to page 6 of the Hansard) and in responding to a question from Senator Rennick regarding the number of Questions of Notice my Department received (refer to page 13 of the Hansard), I advised that we received a further 285 through the Environment and Communications Committee.

The correct figure is 286.

I would be grateful if you could please note these corrections for the information of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Jim Betts

19 December 2023

OFFICIAL