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Senator Wendy Askew
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Askew

Correction of evidence given at 2019-20 Additional Budget Estimates hearing on 5 March 2020.

I am writing to clarify evidence provided to the Committee during its examination of the National Disability Insurance Agency. My sincere apologies for the delay in providing this correction.

1. I refer to the extract below from page 19 of the transcript:

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Were those 1,186 tip-offs investigated in the past financial year?

Mr Hoffman: For the six months from 19 July to 19 December.

I wish to advise those tip-offs were investigated in the period from 1 July to 19 December 2019.

2. I refer to the extract below from page 19 of the transcript:

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: I'm asking how many have been completed, not for details of the nature of the investigations. How many investigations have been completed?

Mr Britton: Technically, as far as matters completed, we've had one matter completed— as in, gone through both investigation and prosecution. So there's been one matter through to completion, recognising other matters continue to be investigated.

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: That's one matter since the commencement—

Mr Britton: Sorry, and there are some before the courts at the moment.

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: How many are before the courts at the moment?

Mr Britton: We have two matters before the courts at the moment.

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Since the beginning of the NDIS, one fraud matter has been investigated to completion, two are before the courts and, at the moment, we have 12 under investigation.

Mr Britton: That's correct.

I wish to advise that as at 5 March 2020, there were two taskforce-related matters before the courts and one non-taskforce related matter.

3. I refer to the extract below from page 20 of the transcript:

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: How many times has that happened?

Mr Britton: In answering your question, I'm balancing the sensitivities around individual investigations.

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: I'm not asking for any details of individuals; I'm asking for a quantum.

Mr Britton: About 1,700 participants.

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: So 1,700 participants have had money taken out of their accounts that you have then gone and topped up?

Mr Britton: Yes,

Where fraudulent behaviour against the NDIS is proven to have occurred, recovery of funds is pursued on behalf of the Commonwealth through debt recovery processes. This can include reparation orders issued by the Courts during prosecution proceedings, Criminal Assets Confiscation processes or a combination of the two.

I wish to advise that there have been 1,700 participants' plans impacted by fraudulent activity. The NDIA has adjusted funding in 870 participants' plans. For the remaining 830 impacted plans, the participants had already received new fully funded plans by the time the situation was established, and so no reimbursement of the plan was required.

4. I refer to the extract below from page 21 of the transcript:

Mr Hoffman: I'm sorry, Senator—Mr Britton did have it: those 1,700 reimbursements have amounted to a figure of \$8.3 million.

Mr Britton: My apologies, Senator.

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: So that is \$8.3 million.

I wish to advise the reimbursements to the 870 participants has amounted to a total of \$3.2 million.

Yours sincerely



Martin Hoffman
Chief Executive Officer
National Disability Insurance Agency

4 May 2020