

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I write regarding the Community Affairs Legislation Committee (the Committee) Additional Estimates 2021–22 hearings on 17 February 2022.

During the opening session there was a discussion about a contract awarded by the Department of Social Services (DSS) in 2020. As part of the discussion it was suggested that I may have misled the Committee during my evidence to the hearings on 28 October 2020.

I have reviewed the transcript and at no stage do I consider that I misled the Committee, nor was it my intention to create that impression. In relation to my evidence that "... *it was determined that there were other pieces of work that they could assist the department with across the disability space*", the work I was referring to related to people on JobSeeker Payment with a partial capacity to work and that is why it linked to the procurement.

I am fully aware of my responsibilities when appearing before parliamentary committees and take them seriously. I further note that the extent of my evidence to the Committee on this matter was at the Estimates hearing on 28 October 2020. I transferred out of DSS in November 2020 and have had no involvement in subsequent hearings on this matter, or in the preparation of responses to questions on notice.

On 27 January 2022, the Secretary of the Department of Social Services, Mr Ray Griggs AO CSC, contacted me to let me know that he had commissioned a review of the procurement process underpinning the contract in question. I have, and will continue to, cooperate fully with that review.

Yours sincerely



Nathan Williamson
18 February 2022

Cc: Secretary, Department of Social Services