



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

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

Dear Senator

**Correction to evidence provided at the 2021-22 Additional Estimates Hearing
on 17 February 2022**

I am writing to correct evidence provided to the Committee during its examination of the Social Services portfolio in relation to Outcome 2 Families and Communities.

In answering a request from Senator Janet Rice for departmental file EF20/58, I said:

“The file relates to work that was undertaken to determine the viability of a second card provider in the Northern Territory. As you may know, subsequent to that a decision was taken to fund the Traditional Credit Union as the second card provider.”

and “The market research was initial work on the viability of that. I would have to test whether there were commercial-in-confidence reasons. There was a report done, essentially, as a result of that as part of that work. I would have to test what the sensitivities were because it was looking at the performance of various financial institutions in the Northern Territory market.”

I would like to correct the statement by changing it to:

“Departmental file EF20/58 contains four documents from December 2019 relevant to the proposed investigation of an extension of existing arrangements with Indue Ltd for the delivery of services in the period of 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2021, as well as the provision of services in the Northern Territory and Cape York Region.”

As such, these files do not relate to the viability of a second card provider in the Northern Territory.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Hefren-Webb', written in a cursive style.

Liz Hefren-Webb
Deputy Secretary
Families and Communities Stream

3 March 2021