



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Senator Lucy Gichuhi
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Letter of clarification of answers submitted to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

I am writing to amend answers provided by the Department of Social Services to the Committee relating to three questions on notice:

- SQ18-000236 on 16 July 2018, which relates to the *Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Act 2018*, and
- SQ18-00232 on 16 July 2018 and SQ18-000513 on 6 December 2018, relating to the Pension Loans Scheme.

SQ18-000236 – Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Act 2018.

Based on transposing positive/negatives in front of figures, the submitted Question on Notice relating to the financial impact of the *Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Act 2018* provided figures that suggested Schedule 16 is a savings measure. I wish to amend that response to insert the correct positive/negative values.

The correct response showing Schedule 16 as an expense measure is shown below.

Schedule	2016-17 (\$m)	2017-18 (\$m)	2018-19 (\$m)	2019-20 (\$m)	2020-21 (\$m)
16 – Streamlining Tax File Number Collection	-0.2	-6.0	0.2	0.3	0.3

SQ18-000232 and SQ18-000513 – Pension Loans Scheme

These questions asked for an estimate of the return to Government from the interest charged on the Scheme over the next four years, given an interest rate of 5.25 per cent.

The answer provided by the Department of \$2.65 million is incorrect. The correct figure is \$3.18 million.

I apologise for these errors and request that the Department's answers be amended and published as per the information in this letter.

If any further information is required, the contact officer in the Department of Social Services is Lydia Ross, Director, Means Test Policy, (02) 6146 4166.

Yours sincerely

Nathan Williamson
Deputy Secretary
Social Security
Department of Social Services

29 January 2019

Cc: Secretary of the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee