



Australian Government
Department of Health

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Ms Radcliffe

**Correction of evidence to 2020 – 21 Budget Estimates Hearing,
26 October 2020**

I am writing to correct evidence provided to the Committee during its examination of the Department of Health in the 2020 – 21 Budget Estimates hearing on 26 October 2020.

In answering a question from Senator Polly, I said: **Mrs Holden:** In 2019-20, we had 336 overseas trained doctors enter the primary care system, and for 2020-21 we have a target of 355, and we're on track for that number entering the system. In terms of their distribution, in 2018-19, 65 per cent of overseas trained doctors went to MM 1 regions. In 2019-20, that reduced down to 47 per cent. And 35 per cent of doctors went to MM 2 to 7 in 2018-19; and, in 2019-20, doctors going to MM 2 to 7 areas increased to 53 per cent. (Hansard, Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Estimates, Monday, 26 October 2020, Proof Copy, Page 68.

It has been brought to my notice that the evidence I provided was incorrect and should be corrected to the following:

Mrs Holden: In 2019-20, we had *a reduction* of 336 overseas trained doctors enter the primary care system, and for 2020-21 we have a *reduction* target of 355, and we're on track for that number entering the system. In terms of their distribution, in 2018-19, 65 per cent of overseas trained doctors went to MM 1 regions. In 2019-20, that reduced down to 47 per cent. And 35 per cent of doctors went to MM 2 to 7 in 2018-19; and, in 2019-20, doctors going to MM 2 to 7 areas increased to 53 per cent.

I apologise for this error and would be grateful if the Hansard could be updated to reflect this information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Fay Holden'.

Fay Holden
First Assistant Secretary
Health Workforce Division

17 November 2020