



Committee Secretary  
Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
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Dear Secretary

I am writing in relation to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee Public Estimates hearing on Thursday 26 October 2023.

I wish to correct evidence provided to the Committee during its examination of the Department of Health and Aged Care. The following pages of the Proof Hansard refer.

- **Page 80** – In answering a question from Senator Roberts, I said: “You raise two elements. One is that Professor McCartney decides which vaccines are added. As Professor Kelly has indicated, her role is as the chair of an advisory committee with the **NHMRC** that advises the delegate to make those determinations. **Her role is to identify the harms that derive from these vaccines.** That is the role of the pharmacovigilance function within the TGA.”
  - **Corrections to highlighted sections:**
    - Professor McCartney is the chair of an advisory committee with the TGA, not with the NHMRC.
    - This will also need to be clarified to say: “her role is **not** to identify the harms that derive from these vaccines”.
- **Page 86** – In answering a question from Senator Rennick, Dr Scott Craig said: “Thanks for the question, Senator. As I understand it - I missed part of the question as I was coming to the table - **the DNA impurity test measures total RNA. It measures both the RNA package within lipids but also free DNA**”.
  - **Correction to highlighted section:**
    - It has been brought to my attention that RNA references must be amended as follows: “the DNA impurity test measures total **DNA**. It measures both the **DNA packaged** within lipids but also free DNA”.

Yours sincerely

Professor Anthony Lawler  
Deputy Secretary  
Health Products Regulation Group  
22 November 2023