



Australian Government
**Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science**

Senator Jane Hume
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Hume

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearing on 31 May 2018, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following exchange occurred between Senator Kim Carr; Mr David Lawrence, General Manager, Growth Centres Branch and Ms Virginia Cook, General Manager, Communications Branch:

Senator KIM CARR: I want to know whether or not non-corporate Commonwealth entities under the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act are covered by these measures? That's the important question. I note here that there's a campaign valuation of \$250,000 and I want to know whether or not this program fits within those guidelines? You're suggesting it's restricted to campaign advertising.

Mr Lawrence: I would have to take that on notice.

Ms Cook: We will take this on notice, but my understanding is that this is not what is considered a government advertising campaign. There is some—

Senator KIM CARR: I've got the guidelines here in front of me. Are you saying that the growth centres are a non-corporate body?

Mr Lawrence: Each growth centre is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.

Senator KIM CARR: I see. So, they're not covered by these guidelines, is that what you're saying?

Ms Cook: That would be my understanding.

Senator KIM CARR: I see. Because it's not departmental advertising, is that how you're arguing?

Ms Cook: It's not departmental and it's not campaign.

Communication activities for the Industry Growth Centres are funded by the department through administered funding.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused and ask that you alert other members of the Committee to this correction.

Yours sincerely

Brad Medland
A/g Chief Operating Officer

28 June 2018