



Mr Gerry McInally
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Education and Employment
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr McInally

I am writing in relation to the Education and Employment Senate Estimates —
Legislation Committee hearings of 5 and 6 June 2024.

On behalf of the Department of Education and portfolio entities, I attach
clarifications to the evidence provided to the Committee at this hearing.
(Attachment A).

I also attach a revised answer to corporate question 7 from Senator Matt O’Sullivan
in his letter of 29 May 2024, tabled at the hearing on 5 June 2024.

Yours sincerely

Ms Bernadette Murphy
Acting Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary, Audit and Risk Branch
People, Parliamentary and Communications Division
Australian Government Department of Education

12 July 2024

**Corrections to Evidence from 2024–25 Budget Estimates hearing
Wednesday, 5 June 2024 and Thursday, 6 June 2024**

Witness Name: Mr Markovic

Hansard Reference: page 5

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning questions on notice.

The Hansard states:

This round of Estimates, the portfolio had a total of 432 QONs. In terms of providing answers to the minister's office, I might group them up rather than go through each one individually: 148 answers were provided on 21 March; 254 were provided between 22 and 28 March; and 26 were provided between 2 April and 11 April.

The corrected statement is:

This round of Estimates, the portfolio had a total of 432 QONs. In terms of providing answers to the minister's office, I might group them up rather than go through each one individually: 148 answers were provided on 21 March 268 were provided between 22 and 28 March; and 12 were provided between 2 April and 11 April.

Witness Name: Mr Markovic

Hansard Reference: page 7

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning guidance for responding to questions on notice.

The Hansard states:

I don't think that was relevant to this question. Yes, I had a copy of the manual. It was distributed by my parliamentary team. I didn't have firsthand knowledge of that at the time that I answered these questions. That said—

The corrected statement is:

I don't think that was relevant to this question. Yes, I had a copy of the guidance. It was distributed by my parliamentary team. I didn't have firsthand knowledge of that at the time that I answered these questions. That said—

Witness Name: Mr Markovic

Hansard Reference: page 8

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning guidance for responding to questions on notice.

The Hansard states:

Yes, I had the manual. I have indicated that previously. I couldn't explain at the time how they got that answer. I didn't know that at the time we had distributed the guidance to portfolio entities. My testimony is correct.

The corrected statement is:

Yes, I had the guidance. I have indicated that previously. I couldn't explain at the time how they got that answer. I didn't know that at the time we had distributed the guidance to portfolio entities. My testimony is correct.

Witness Name: Mr Cook

Hansard Reference: page 12

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning guidance for responding to questions on notice.

The Hansard states:

I can't recall Mr Markovic telling me about the **manual**. I am happy to be corrected if Mr Markovic tells me he did. But I literally can't recall it.

The corrected statement is:

I can't recall Mr Markovic telling me about the **guidance**. I am happy to be corrected if Mr Markovic tells me he did. But I literally can't recall it.

Witness Name: Dr Hunter

Hansard Reference: page 32

Evidence Correction: On the topic concerning Together For Humanity's Intercultural Understanding Partnership program.

The Hansard states:

There is an Intercultural Understanding Partnership program, **and it has been delivered to 69 schools** to date and reached up to 50,000 students.

The corrected statement is:

There is an Intercultural Understanding Partnership program, **which aims to be delivered to 100 schools** and reach up to 50,000 students.

Witness Name: Dr Hunter

Hansard Reference: page 32

Evidence Correction: On the topic concerning Together For Humanity's Youth Summit.

The Hansard states:

There have been two to date, with **32 schools** and **350 students** participating, and a third is scheduled for August 2024.

The corrected statement is:

There have been two to date, with **30 schools** and **211 students** participating, and a third is scheduled for August 2024.

Witness Name: Ms Brighton

Hansard Reference: page 34

Evidence Correction: On the topic concerning Together For Humanity - Student and Teacher Participation in Online Programs.

The Hansard states:

To date over 40,000 students and teachers **have been** reached through the online programs that it has.

The corrected statement is:

To date over 40,000 students and teachers **are expected to be** reached through the online programs that it has.

Witness Name: Dr Hunter

Hansard Reference: page 35

Evidence Correction: On the topic concerning Together For Humanity support for states.

The Hansard states:

At the moment, Together For Humanity **only** operates in the eastern states, so there's an opportunity to look at expansion across other parts of the country.

The corrected statement is:

At the moment, Together For Humanity operates **predominately** in the eastern states, so there's an opportunity to look at expansion across other parts of the country.

Witness Name: Ms Brighton

Hansard Reference: page 35

Evidence Correction: On the topic concerning Together For Humanity support for states.

The Hansard states:

The current work is **all** in the eastern states, and, as Dr Hunter said, the expansion will enable them to move into other jurisdictions as well.

The corrected statement is:

The current work is **primarily** in the eastern states, and, as Dr Hunter said, the expansion will enable them to move into other jurisdictions as well.

Witness Name: Ms Brighton

Hansard Reference: page 61

Evidence Correction: On the topic concerning Monash University's RRE rapid review.

The Hansard states:

As part of that work Monash was commissioned to do a rapid review about **materials that were available to look at**—not only best practice, but what were the gaps **in the existing materials** and what were the areas for further improvement.

The corrected statement is:

As part of that work Monash was commissioned to do a rapid review about **current RRE delivery approaches**—not only best practice, but what were the gaps and what were the areas for further improvement.

Response to letter from Senator O’Sullivan of 29 May 2024

Corporate

1. The number and levels of staff currently employed by the Department including current organisational structures;
2. The number and location of APS staff and locally engaged staff at each overseas location;
3. A current list of all boards, commissions, statutory appointments within the portfolio including date of appointment and cessation. Please include any vacant positions, the reason for the vacancy, when it became vacant and for how long it is expected to be vacant;
4. A list of all grants programs delivered by the Department and the funding allocation for each grant program over the forward estimates;
5. A list of all official functions and receptions since 1 February 2024, including the location, cost and attendees at each function;
6. A list of the current reviews being undertaken including a description of the review, the name of the reviewer and the cost of the review; and
7. The date each Question on Notice for the 2023-24 Additional Estimates was submitted to the Minister’s office, the date each question was returned for any redraft and resubmitted to the Minister’s office and the date each answer was cleared by the Minister’s office.

Responses

1. As at 31 March 2024, the department employed 1,596.3 full-time equivalent staff. Staff are employed at the following classification levels:

Level	FTE
APS1 Trainee	3.0
APS2	12.2
APS3*	63.7
APS4	110.6
APS5	197.7
APS6	364.8
GOVLWR1 (APS5/6)	8.0
EXEC1	503.1
GOVLWRS1 (EXEC1)	17.6
EXEC2	228.1
GOVLWRP2 (EXEC2)	10.8
SESB1	56.9
SESB2	16.0
SESB3	4.0

Notes: Data based on actual classification. Data includes individuals in acting arrangements in the system at the time of reporting. Totals may not equal the sum of components due to rounding.

*The APS 3 cohort includes APS 3 Trainees and Graduates.

A copy of the department’s organisation chart, as at 3 June 2024, is at [Attachment A](#).

2. As at 30 April 2024, the department has 10 staff at overseas locations. There are 17 locally engaged staff (LES), who are employed by the department through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Location	Department staff (FTE)	LES staff (FTE)
Bangkok, Thailand	-	1.2
Beijing, China	2.0	3.0
Brasilia, Brazil	1.0	2.0
Hanoi, Vietnam	1.0	2.0
Jakarta, Indonesia	1.0	2.0
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1.0	-
Mexico City, Mexico	1.0	1.0
New Delhi, India	2.0	3.0
Seoul, South Korea	-	1.0
Tokyo, Japan	1.0	1.0

Notes: The Bangkok location is managed by Hanoi departmental staff, and the Seoul location is managed by Tokyo departmental staff.

3. A list of board, commission and statutory appointment positions within the portfolio is at Attachment B. A list of vacant positions is at Attachment C.
4. A list of grant programs and funding allocations over the forward estimates, as at 2024-25 Budget, is at Attachment D.
5. The department provided information on official functions and receptions held to 31 January 2024 in response to SQ24-000094. This data is not held centrally within the department; a coordination exercise is required to collate the requested information and cannot be completed in the time provided.
6. The department provided information on current reviews being undertaken as at 15 February 2024 in response to SQ24-000101. This data is not held centrally within the department; a coordination exercise is required to collate the requested information and cannot be completed in the time provided.
7. A total of 432 questions on notice (QoNs) resulted from the hearing for the Education portfolio. Of the 432 QoNs:
- 148 answers to QoNs were provided to Ministers' offices on 21 March 2024
 - 268 were provided between 22 March and 28 March 2024
 - 12 were provided between 2 and 11 April 2024
 - the remaining 4 QoNs were answered by the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education.

Responses were cleared by the Minister's office on 24 May 2024 and tabled with the Committee on the same day.

Responses are reviewed and updated for currency and following consultation throughout the clearance process. To identify the questions returned for redraft and resubmission would require a manual review of proposed responses and represents an unreasonable diversion of resources.