



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 hearing of 15 February 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).

Yours sincerely

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

5 April 2024

## Corrections to Evidence from 2023–24 Additional Budget Estimates hearing Thursday 15 February 2024

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**Witness Name:** Mr Cook

**Hansard Reference:** page 9

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning: Australian Universities Accord panel member remuneration.

**The Hansard states:**

The payment would have been made in relation to the rates of payment that the Remuneration Tribunal would allocate for boards of government. That is a standard payment. We would have met the requirements that the Remuneration Tribunal sets in terms of payment for members.

**The corrected statement is:**

The payment would have been made **based on the rates of payment for a part-time public office holder under the Remuneration Tribunal determination.**

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**Witness Name:** Mr Cook

**Hansard Reference:** page 10

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning: Remuneration Tribunal policies and eligibility to be remunerated for board positions.

**The Hansard states:**

We apply the Remuneration Tribunal policy in relation to any board. My understanding is that the only people who can't take payments are public servants paid by the Commonwealth. For example, when I am on a board, I don't take payment, for example. I don't believe those rules exist for other people outside the APS. I understand what you are saying about working throughout the week. I also understand that the panel had many discussions on weekends and so it was time outside his normal work time. Mr Glover, as anyone would be, is entitled to those payments under the Remuneration Tribunal policy.

**The corrected statement is:**

**The Minister decided not to remunerate public servants and other office holders** paid by the Commonwealth who were on the panel. For example, for my role on the panel, I didn't take payment. I understand what you are saying about working throughout the week. I also understand that the panel had many discussions on weekends and so it was time outside his normal work time. Mr Glover, **as is any panel member**, entitled to those payments **as determined by the Minister.**

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**Witness Name:** Mr Cook

**Hansard Reference:** page 10

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning: Eligibility to be remunerated for board positions.

**The Hansard states:**

I don't know the remuneration of Professor Glover. But in terms of the Remuneration Tribunal policy, the policy applies equally to anyone whether they are employed or otherwise other than public servants.

**The corrected statement is:**

I don't know the remuneration of Professor Glover. **The Minister decided not to remunerate public servants and other office holders paid by the Commonwealth who were on the panel.**

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**Witness Name:** Mr Cook

**Hansard Reference:** page 10-11

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning: Eligibility to be remunerated for board positions.

**The Hansard states:**

Mr Cook: There's a policy. That policy is publicly available, I think. It is about the rates of chairs, deputy chairs and daily rates of members of government boards. It sets it out clearly what those amounts are. As we do for any board, we make determinations about, first of all, whether the board will be remunerated. It depends on the status of the board. This board absolutely is remunerated. They are remunerated against any other board that

the Commonwealth establishes, whether people are employed or otherwise. As I said, the only people who are exempt from payment are public servants in the APS.

CHAIR: This is consistent with previous Remuneration Tribunal deliberations and guidelines?

Mr Cook: That's my understanding. Mr Markovic can probably add to it.

Mr Markovic: Correct. It's the Remuneration Tribunal guidelines that we follow for these boards.

**The corrected statement is:**

Mr Cook: There's a policy. That policy is publicly available, I think. It is about the rates of chairs, deputy chairs and daily rates of members of government boards. It sets it out clearly what those amounts are. As we do for any board, we make determinations about, first of all, whether the board will be remunerated. It depends on the status of the board. This board absolutely is remunerated **based on the rates for a part time public office holder under the relevant Remuneration Tribunal determination**. As I said, the only people who **the Minister decided not to remunerate were public servants and other office holders paid by the Commonwealth who were on the panel**.

Chair: This is consistent with previous Remuneration Tribunal deliberations and guidelines?

Mr Cook: That's my understanding. Mr Markovic can probably add to it.

Mr Markovic: Correct. It's the Remuneration Tribunal **determinations** that we follow for these boards.

**Witness Name:** Ms Ratajkoski

**Hansard Reference:** page 12

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning details on the Be That Teacher campaign.

**The Hansard states:**

The campaign went live on 1 November. This figure I have is at 31 December for just three months.

**The corrected statement is:**

The campaign went live on 1 November. This figure I have is at **31 January** for just three months.

**Witness Name:** Mr Markovic

**Hansard Reference:** page 14

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning costs of meals at restaurants.

**The Hansard states:**

Certainly. The next item is \$3,000 at an average cost of \$125.

**The corrected statement is:**

Certainly. The next item is \$3,000 at an average cost of **\$103.45**.

**Witness Name:** Mr Cook

**Hansard Reference:** page 17

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning: The remuneration of board members under the Remuneration Tribunal Policy.

**The Hansard states:**

In terms of the policy, any member of a board is entitled to payment under Remuneration Tribunal policy other than public servants.

**The corrected statement is:**

**The Minister decided to remunerate the panel based on the rates for a part time public office holder under the relevant Remuneration Tribunal determination. The Minister decided not to remunerate public servants and other office holders paid by the Commonwealth who were on the panel.**

**Witness Name:** Mr Mudford

**Hansard Reference:** page 22

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning the retention rate of AIEF students.

**The Hansard states:**

I have data that confirms the 90 per cent annual retention rate. I don't have data on the students who failed to meet the contract requirements that you have talked about. I don't have that data with me.

**The corrected statement is:**

I have data that confirms the 95 per cent annual retention rate. I don't have data on the students who failed to meet the contract requirements that you have talked about. I don't have that data with me.

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**Witness Name:** Ms Brighton

**Hansard Reference:** page 42

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning the High Achieving Teachers Program delivered by Teach for Australia.

**The Hansard states:**

That was cohort 1 to 5. We are up to now cohort 16, which is the cohort in play. I haven't got my calculator here. Ms Birmingham might have a total in her mind.

**The corrected statement is:**

That was cohorts 1 to 5. We are up to now cohort 15, which is the cohort in play. I haven't got my calculator here. Ms Birmingham might have a total in her mind.

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**Witness Name:** Ms Brighton

**Hansard Reference:** page 55

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning Microcredentials for teacher professional development.

**The Hansard states:**

As a companion piece, we have also commissioned the University of Adelaide to develop a series of micro-credentials for teachers to support them in their professional development about managing classrooms.

**The corrected statement is:**

As a companion piece, we have also commissioned the University of Adelaide to develop a series of micro-credentials for teachers to support them in their professional development, including managing classrooms.

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**Witness Name:** Ms Brighton

**Hansard Reference:** page 57

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning incentive payments for teachers in remote areas as part of the Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships Program.

**The Hansard states:**

Certainly, just to add to what Mr Cook said, the conversations I'm having with the CEO of the Northern Territory department are about the different strategies they are looking at to attract and retain teachers and to creatively affirm the expertise of First Nations educators and to ensure that First Nation educators are recognised for that expertise. We do work quite closely together. We're doing work through things such as Commonwealth teaching scholarships, which I recognise is not an immediate action. There will also be an incentive payment to individuals who take up roles in regional and remote areas. This is in addition to the incentives that jurisdictions have for their workforce as well, be it everything from a housing allowance to incentive payments to try to attract people.

**The corrected statement is:**

Certainly, just to add to what Mr Cook said, the conversations I'm having with the CEO of the Northern Territory department are about the different strategies they are looking at to attract and retain teachers and to creatively

affirm the expertise of First Nations educators and to ensure that First Nation educators are recognised for that expertise. We do work quite closely together. We're doing work through things such as Commonwealth teaching scholarships, which I recognise is not an immediate action. There **may** also be an incentive payment to **scholarship recipients** who **complete their final professional experience placement** in **remote** areas. This is in addition to the incentives that jurisdictions have for their workforce as well, be it everything from a housing allowance to incentive payments to try to attract people.

**Witness Name:** Mr Gniel

**Hansard Reference:** page 65

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning: introducing the witness as acting CEO (para one on the page)

**The Hansard states:**

I really feel privileged to be here in this role and overseeing the really important work of the Australian Curriculum Assessment Authority.

**The corrected statement is:**

I really feel privileged to be here in this role and overseeing the really important work of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment **and Reporting** Authority.

**Witness Name:** Mr Gniel

**Hansard Reference:** page 65

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning: the Australian Curriculum (para two on the page)

**The Hansard states:**

...but we have recently released the Australian Curriculum.

**The corrected statement is:**

...but we have recently released the Australian Curriculum **version 9**.

**Witness Name:** Mr Gniel

**Hansard Reference:** page 70

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning: National Teacher Workforce Action Plan recommendations (near bottom of page).

**The Hansard states:**

Are you talking about a specific recommendation about the Australian **government**?

**The corrected statement is:**

Are you talking about a specific recommendation about the Australian **Curriculum**?

**Witness Name:** Ms Brighton

**Hansard Reference:** page 73

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning AITSL board appointments.

**The Hansard states:**

My colleague has just advised me that the board appointments are made by the Australian government and approved by the Prime Minister. Certainly, the Prime Minister advises cabinet if a reappointment is required. **We would go out to jurisdictions usually and seek their views about members**, but the decision-making is the Australian government Minister for Education.

**The corrected statement is:**

My colleague has just advised me that the board appointments are made by the Australian government and approved by the Prime Minister. Certainly, the Prime Minister advises cabinet if a reappointment is required but the decision-making is the Australian government Minister for Education.

**Witness Name:** Ms Brighton

**Hansard Reference:** page 76

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning declining ITE enrolments.

**The Hansard states:**

The higher education data shows that for **commencements** I think there has been a four per cent decline since the beginning of 2022 in ITE enrolments.

**The corrected statement is:**

The higher education data shows that for **enrolments** I think there has been a four per cent decline since the beginning of 2022 in ITE enrolments.

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**Witness Name:** Mr Johnson

**Hansard Reference:** page 130

**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning: how many freedom of information requests did the ARC receive in the 2023–24 year to date?

**The Hansard states:**

As of **31 December** 2023, we had received 670.

**The corrected statement is:**

As of **30 June** 2023, we had received 670.

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