



Australian Government
**Department of Employment
and Workplace Relations**

Our Ref: EC22-011582

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Education and Employment – Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Corrections to Evidence — Budget Estimates 8 and 9 November 2022

I am writing in relation to the Education and Employment Senate Estimates — Legislation Committee Hearing held on 8 and 9 November 2022.

On behalf of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and portfolio agencies, I attach clarifications to the evidence provided to the Committee at the recent hearing ([Attachment A](#)).

Yours sincerely

Ms Dany Turner
A/g Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary and Governance Branch

8 December 2022

**Corrections to Evidence from 2022–23 Budget Estimates hearing
Tuesday 8 November and Wednesday 9 November 2022**

Witness Name: Alexandra Mathews

Hansard Reference: page 40 (day 1)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning - working women's centres funding.

The Hansard states:

Ms Mathews: They are currently receiving approximately \$350,000 each per centre. That is pursuant to different grants. The funding that was announced in the recent budget was for \$32 million over the forward estimates.

Senator WATERS: So you are saying there are two blocks.

The corrected statement is:

The *Funding for Working Women's Centres* measure, announced as part of the October 2022-23 Budget, provides \$30.2 million over four years (and \$8 million per year ongoing) to implement the Government's election commitment to fund working women's centres in every state and territory. The \$1.8 million in existing funding that is being provided to the Northern Territory Working Women's Centre and Working Women Queensland (\$350,000 per centre per year), and that was originally announced in the March 2022-23 Budget, has also been redirected to support this measure. As such, the funding totals \$32 million over four years.

Witness Name: Jennifer Wettinger

Hansard Reference: page 47 (day 1)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning - the hourly earnings of aged care workers

The Hansard states:

In terms of the pay of aged care workers over the last 10 years, it has gone from \$23.60 an hour to \$33.70 an hour.

The corrected statement is:

In terms of the pay of personal care workers over the last 11 years, many of which work in aged care, it has gone from \$23.60 an hour to \$33.70 an hour.

Witness Name: Stephen McBurney

Hansard Reference: page 69 (day 1)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the ABCC's success rate in legal cases involving the CFMMEU

The Hansard states:

We've been successful in 80 out of 88. The CFMMEU has been unsuccessful in 80 out of 88 cases. Between ourselves and the **agency**, I'd prefer to be on our side of the score card.

The corrected statement is:

We've been successful in 80 out of 88. The CFMMEU has been unsuccessful in 80 out of 88 cases. Between ourselves and the **union**, I'd prefer to be on our side of the score card.

Witness Name: Darlene Perks

Hansard Reference: page 14 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning: Independent Review Terms of Reference consultation

The Hansard states:

Senator Liddle: Was there any consultation with your organisation?

Ms Perks: **No**

The corrected statement is:

Ms Perks: **Yes**

Witness Name: Sandra Parker

Hansard Reference: page 39 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning litigations in the construction industry relating to women's toilets, flags, stickers and union officials having cups of tea.

The Hansard states:

Ms Parker: We don't have the building and construction sector. We certainly haven't had any of those kinds of matters in the residential construction sector.

The corrected statement is:

Ms Parker: We don't have the **commercial** building and construction sector. We certainly haven't had any of those kinds of matters in the residential construction sector.

Witness Name: Rachel Volzke

Hansard Reference: page 42 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning staffing in the Fair Work Ombudsman's Legal Group.

The Hansard states:

Ms Volzke: It's about 110 ASL at the moment, but I think the headcount across the entire legal group is 139

The corrected statement is:

Ms Volzke: It's about 110 ASL at the moment, but I think the headcount across the entire legal group is **around 130**.

Witness Name: Sandra Parker

Hansard Reference: page 48 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the number of universities the FWO has had contact with.

The Hansard states:

Ms Parker: I mentioned before that we've had contact with 26 out of the 43 total institutions. It doesn't mean that all of them are under investigation, but we're having contact with them, so there's ongoing work. We have ongoing communication with their councils and peak bodies. As you mentioned at the start, it's a priority for us across the year, which means that we'll continue to investigate. What I would hope is that they're all very much looking at their payrolls and their histories and their payslips. I understand from those universities that I am talking to and their peak bodies that that is the case. They have recognised that there's a systemic issue. They are addressing it, some more quickly than others, but it is a complex activity for them.

The corrected statement is:

Ms Parker: I mentioned before that we've had contact with 26 out of the 42 total institutions. It doesn't mean that all of them are under investigation, but we're having contact with them, so there's ongoing work. We have ongoing communication with their councils and peak bodies. As you mentioned at the start, it's a priority for us across the year, which means that we'll continue to investigate. What I would hope is that they're all very much looking at their payrolls and their histories and their payslips. I understand from those universities that I am talking to and their peak bodies that that is the case. They have recognised that there's a systemic issue. They are addressing it, some more quickly than others, but it is a complex activity for them.

Witness Name: Rachel Volzke

Hansard Reference: page 54 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning FWO v CFMMEU (Oakly North Mine)

The Hansard states:

Ms Volzke: What I meant was that it was only written yesterday. It was recent in that respect. I'm certainly aware of it, but I just meant that this this was an article from yesterday. What I would say in reading that is that it seems to raise potential general protections, 346, 'no ticket no start' and freedom of association types of issues. Those are already matters that we do investigate. In fact, we have a matter on at the moment in court, FWO and CFMMEU, in relation to the Oakly North mine. That does relate to adverse action and coercion during protected industrial action as well and involves various allegations. Sorry—I should say it's not the construction division; I think it's the mining and energy division. It involved 'scab' signs, social media abuse and verbal abuse as well. That matter is currently, as I understand it, listed for a case management hearing for 22 February 2023. I guess all I'd say is, this is not necessarily new work. I understand absolutely the point about the challenges, but we also have—

The corrected statement is:

Ms Volzke: What I meant was that it was only written yesterday. It was recent in that respect. I'm certainly aware of it, but I just meant that this this was an article from yesterday. What I would say in reading that is that it seems to raise potential general protections, 346, 'no ticket no start' and freedom of association types of issues. Those are already matters that we do investigate. In fact, we have a matter on at the moment in court, FWO and CFMMEU, in relation to the Oakly North mine. That does relate to adverse action and coercion during protected industrial action as well and involves various allegations. Sorry—I should say it involves officials from the construction division and the mining and energy division. It involved 'scab' signs, social media abuse and verbal abuse as well. That matter is currently, as I understand it, listed for a case management hearing for 22 February 2023. I guess all I'd say is, this is not necessarily new work. I understand absolutely the point about the challenges, but we also have—

Witness Name: Ms Saxon Rice

Hansard Reference: page 64 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the delivery of qualifications and placements during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Hansard states:

I think it was also encountered in the hospitality area as well, with a resulting in a backlog of work placements...

The corrected statement is:

I think it was also encountered in the hospitality area as well, with a **resulting backlog** of work placements...

Witness Name: Ms Saxon Rice

Hansard Reference: page 64 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the delivery of qualifications and placements during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Hansard states:

...in order to not only be able to facilitate – facilitate is probably not quite the right word- our role but be able to support those potential solutions to that backlog of work placements at the time.

The corrected statement is:

...in order to not only be able to facilitate – facilitate is probably not quite the right word- **in terms of** our role but be able to support those potential solutions to that backlog of work placements at the time.

Witness Name: Ms Saxon Rice

Hansard Reference: page 69 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning ASQA's views on public and private Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)

The Hansard states:

.. the nature of funding programs inevitably raises a level of risk for ASQA as the regulatory in any way in which they're being delivered.

The corrected statement is:

.. the nature of funding programs inevitably raises a level of risk for ASQA as the regulatory **in the way** in which they're being delivered.

Witness Name: Ms Saxon Rice

Hansard Reference: page 70 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning why students and employers are choosing private providers.

The Hansard states:

I'm not sure that that's something that the regulator comment on.

The corrected statement is:

I'm not sure that that's something that the regulator **can** comment on.

Witness Name: Clare Sharp

Hansard Reference: page 80 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning New Energy Apprenticeships and women in trade.

The Hansard states:

The way we see the two measures running is—with the women in non-traditional trades measure that you mentioned, the **\$38.8 million** that is now rolling out, a woman who takes on an electrical apprenticeship will get support via that measure with specialist female mentors

The corrected statement is:

The way we see the two measures running is—with the women in non-traditional trades measure that you mentioned, the **\$38.6 million** that is now rolling out, a woman who takes on an electrical apprenticeship will get support via that measure with specialist female mentors

Witness Name: Laura Angus

Hansard Reference: page 87 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning consultation on Jobs and Skills Australia's permanent model

The Hansard states:

All in all, the Commonwealth has consulted and **reviewed** around 70 submissions from governments, business and unions to inform the program, the advice and the sorts of things that JSA might do, or just talking through the workforce planning and skills shortage issues more broadly.

The corrected statement is:

All in all, the Commonwealth has **heard feedback from** and consulted over 70 stakeholders from governments, business, education and training providers and unions to inform the program, the advice and the sorts of things that JSA might do, or just talking through the workforce planning and skills shortage issues more broadly.

Witness Name: Nadine Williams

Hansard Reference: page 89 (day 2)

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning communications on the historic VET Student Loans and VET FEE-HELP loan records.

The Hansard states:

As you'd appreciate, our first priority was to ensure that the students themselves, or the former students, were appropriately informed and understood what had occurred and what steps the department was taking. So we provided information on our website fairly immediately, on **2** September. We set out information on the issue and advised them that the department would be contacting them and directing them to an online inquiry form. We then went through a process of issuing correspondence by both email and letter to each individual student, which provided them with further information over essentially a nine-day period, and then we followed that up where necessary with phone calls to some students

The corrected statement is:

As you'd appreciate, our first priority was to ensure that the students themselves, or the former students, were appropriately informed and understood what had occurred and what steps the department was taking. So we provided information on our website fairly immediately, on **7** September. We set out information on the issue and advised them that the department would be contacting them and directing them to an online inquiry form. We then went through a process of issuing correspondence by both email and letter to each individual student, which provided them with further information over essentially a nine-day period, and then we followed that up where necessary with phone calls to some students.