



Australian Government
Department of Education

Our Ref: EC23-000518

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

Dear Ms Radcliffe

I am writing in relation to the Education and Employment Senate Estimates —
Legislation Committee hearing of 16 February 2023.

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 Maryann Quagliata
Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary, Audit and Risk Branch
People, Parliamentary and Communications Division
Australian Government Department of Education

31 March 2023

Corrections to Evidence from 2022–23 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing Thursday, 16 February 2023

Witness Name: Dr Bruniges

Hansard Reference: page 37

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the department's current Reconciliation Action Plan

The Hansard states:

A RAP Plan? **Yes, we do. Would you like a copy of our latest plan?**

The corrected statement is:

We have a draft Reconciliation Action Plan.

Witness Name: Dr Bruniges

Hansard Reference: page 39

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the role of the Department of Education's offshore Counsellors.

The Hansard states:

They link to **AusAID** if we're doing education export.

The corrected statement is:

They link to **Austrade** if we're doing education export.

Witness Name: Mr Pattie

Hansard Reference: page 39

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning Code of Conduct

The Hansard states:

Senator HENDERSON: Are there any current investigations in relation to breaches of the APS Code of Conduct?

Mr Pattie: **No.**

The corrected statement is:

The Department of Education is currently investigating one APS Code of Conduct matter. The investigation commenced in November 2022.

Witness Name: Dr Bruniges

Hansard Reference: page 55

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning consultation undertaken before the draft National Teacher Workforce Action Plan was completed, and in particular, members of the working group

The Hansard states:

~~We had parents,~~ we had the Catholic Education Commission, we had the independent schools commission.

The corrected statement is:

We had the Catholic Education Commission; we had the independent schools commission.

Witness Name: Dr Bruniges

Hansard Reference: Page 59

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning proportion of total Commonwealth funding for schools

The Hansard states:

No. What I can say is that funding is growing fastest for government schools, at an average annual growth rate of 5.1 per cent per student each year between 2018 and 2029. Funding for non-government schools will grow by 4.1 per cent per student. So the rate of growth for government schools is higher each year on year than it is for non-government schools. And funding across all sectors will grow by an average of 4.7 per cent. Commonwealth funding for government schools has grown by 54.1 per cent per student. It was \$2,259 in 2011-12, and the latest figure we've got is \$3,480 in 2020-21. The state and territory component has grown by 10.8 per cent per student, from \$15,762 to \$17,459 in that same period. Commonwealth funding for non-government schools has grown by 31 per cent per student in the same period of time, and state and territory funding has grown by 15.8 per cent per student from \$2,603 to \$3,013.

The corrected statement is:

No. What I can say is that funding is growing fastest for government schools, at an average annual growth rate of 5.1 per cent per student each year between 2018 and 2029. Funding for non-government schools will grow by 4.1 per cent per student. So the rate of growth for government schools is higher each year on year than it is for non-government schools. And funding across all sectors will grow by an average of 4.7 per cent. Commonwealth funding for government schools has grown by 54.1 per cent per student. It was \$2,259 in 2011-12, and the latest figure we've got is \$3,480 in 2020-21. The state and territory component has grown by 10.8 per cent per student, from \$15,762 to \$17,459 in that same period. Commonwealth funding for non-government schools has grown by 31.6 per cent per student in the same period of time, and state and territory funding has grown by 15.8 per cent per student from \$2,603 to \$3,013.

Witness Name: Dr Bruniges

Hansard Reference: Page 62

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning school funding transparency and school in Wadeye

The Hansard states:

It's a very good question, Senator. If you're not at school, you're not learning. I'm very clear in my view about the importance of school attendance. How do we hold governments to account? For the receipt of money, we have a block **grant authority sheet** that comes in that is school by school, saying how much money on each of the variables comes in, and that's signed off by the chief executive. We then also do some audits that Mr **Hardy** has spoken to if there's something that comes to our attention that we should look at. We do rely on those block **grant authorities**. And in the non-government sector there are also financial statistical returns that are signed off by a CPA that come in from the non-government sector. If there is an issue with a particular school in that block **grant authority**, I think Mr **Hardy** has just been through a risk assessment if there is something untoward—and that clearly sounds untoward to me.

The corrected statement is:

It's a very good question, Senator. If you're not at school, you're not learning. I'm very clear in my view about the importance of school attendance. How do we hold governments to account? For the receipt of money, we have a block **allocation report** that comes in that is school by school, saying how much money on each of the variables comes in, and that's signed off by the chief executive. We then also do some audits that Mr **Harding** has spoken to if there's something that comes to our attention that we should look at. We do rely on those block **allocation reports**. And in the non-government sector there are also financial statistical returns that are signed off by a CPA that come in from the non-government sector. If there is an issue with a particular school in that block **allocation report**, I think Mr **Harding** has just been through a risk assessment if there is something untoward—and that clearly sounds untoward to me.

Witness Name: Dr Bruniges

Hansard Reference: page 68

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning 20,000 additional university places

The Hansard states:

Yes, I will begin. We have a total of 51 providers who are eligible to apply for those Commonwealth supported places. The department received applications from 42 providers, who requested around 37,606 EFT, which was equivalent to about **\$1.296** million in funding between 2023 and 2028. In total 42 providers will receive \$587 million between 2023 and 2028 to deliver 20,038 places, which commenced this year. I have a breakdown by institutions and states, if you'd like me to go through that.

The corrected statement is:

Yes, I will begin. We have a total of 51 providers who are eligible to apply for those Commonwealth supported places. The department received applications from 42 providers, who requested around 37,606 EFT, which was equivalent to about **\$1,296** million in funding between 2023 and 2028. In total 42 providers will receive \$587 million between 2023 and 2028 to deliver 20,038 places, which commenced this year. I have a breakdown by institutions and states, if you'd like me to go through that.

Witness Name: Mr Cook

Hansard Reference: page 71

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the first meeting of the Australian Universities Accord.

The Hansard states:

Yes, the panel has met as a panel five times. **The first meeting was, I think, three days after they were announced.**

The corrected statement is:

Yes, the panel has met as a panel five times. **The first meeting was the day after they were announced.**

Witness Name: Mr English

Hansard Reference: page 75

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning a brief description of what the Startup Year Program is.

The Hansard states:

The Startup Year program is a loan scheme that will provide, through the higher education income-contingent loan system, support for programs run by universities to provide incubator and accelerator programs and entrepreneurship education to students in their final year of university and **two** years following their completion of their course. It's designed to provide 2,000 loans per annum at full implementation, up to the value of the cluster 4 rate in our system—

The corrected statement is:

The Startup Year program is a loan scheme that will provide, through the higher education income-contingent loan system, support for programs run by universities to provide incubator and accelerator programs and entrepreneurship education to students in their final year of university and **three** years following their completion of their course. It's designed to provide 2,000 loans per annum at full implementation, up to the value of the cluster 4 rate in our system—

Witness Name: Mr Maclean

Hansard Reference: page 91

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning higher education provider communities of practice regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment.

The Hansard states:

Universities Australia, as you'd be aware, have their own community of practice among **their** members, as does the G8 **summit**.

The corrected statement is:

Universities Australia, as you'd be aware, have their own community of practice among **the** members, as does the G8 **group of universities**.

Witness Name: Professor Coaldrake

Hansard Reference: page 92

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning complaints to TEQSA this financial year regarding course quality at higher education institutions.

The Hansard states:

Since 2017, we've had 35 concerns registered with us.

The corrected statement is:

TEQSA has received 43 complaints regarding course delivery (teaching and courses) this financial year.

Witness Name: Professor Coaldrake

Hansard Reference: page 92

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning complaints to TEQSA this financial year regarding course quality at higher education institutions.

The Hansard states:

...we've had 35 expressions of concern since 2017, about 10 of which came from the media and most of the others of which came from students...

The corrected statement is:

We've had 43 complaints regarding course delivery so far this financial year.

Witness Name: Professor Coaldrake

Hansard Reference: page 92

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning complaints to TEQSA this financial year regarding course quality at higher education institutions.

The Hansard states:

We could provide a list of the 35 complaints since 2017.

The corrected statement is:

We could provide a summary list of the 43 complaints received this financial year.
