



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

Our Ref: EC23-000848

Chief Financial Officer
First Assistant Secretary
Mr Ben Sladic

Ms Sarah Redden
Acting Committee Secretary
Education and Employment – Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Corrections to Evidence — Supplementary Budget Estimates 15th and 16th February 2023

I am writing in relation to the Education and Employment Senate Estimates — Legislation Committee Hearing of the 15th and 16th of February 2023.

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

Ben Sladic

23 March 2023

**Corrections to Evidence from 2022–23 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing
Wednesday 15 February and Thursday 16 February 2023**

Witness Name: Ms Laura Angus

Hansard Reference: Page 12

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning funding to support the establishment of Jobs and Skills Australia, and specifically in relation to funding for the national survey on adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills.

The Hansard states:

But also to undertake a national survey on adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills, which includes an assessment of adult foundation skills and a feasibility study to support the skills of First Nations people. I think again we alluded to that in one of the previous questions. That's over \$12 million over 2022-23 and 2024-25.

The corrected statement is:

But also to undertake a national survey on adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills, which includes an assessment of adult foundation skills and a feasibility study to support the skills of First Nations people. I think again we alluded to that in one of the previous questions. That's over \$12 million over 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Witness Name: Ms Clare Sharp

Hansard Reference: Page 9

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning working in the group training environment in consultation with group training providers

The Hansard states:

Certainly in the context of those consultations on apprenticeship support we did meet with some group training organisations. I think Ms Campbell might be able to speak to you more about what ANICA and some of the GTOs are doing in that space.

The corrected statement is:

Certainly in the context of those consultations on apprenticeship support we did meet with some group training organisations. I think Ms Campbell might be able to speak to you more about what NECA and some of the GTOs are doing in that space.

Witness Name: Ms Belinda Campbell

Hansard Reference: Page 9

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning working in the group training environment in consultation with group training providers

The Hansard states:

As part of the consultation we did we met with a number of organisations, but ANICA was one of the sites we visited and met with their apprentices.

The corrected statement is:

As part of the consultation we did we met with a number of organisations, but NECA was one of the sites we visited and met with their apprentices.

Witness Name: Ms Nadine Williams

Hansard Reference: Page 26

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the source of apprenticeship data.

The Hansard states:

Ms Sharp has made an important distinction. In our programs obviously we have very good cohort data and place data. Where we transfer funding to the states and territories we have the **NCDA, which is the National Data Collection Agency**, and we rely on the analytics and data collection they undertake to tell us what the entire system looks like essentially. That is not unusual with a shared system. That brings with it its own unique challenges around the currency of data, et cetera. That is probably the best source of understanding for how the entire system is operating across all jurisdictions, Commonwealth and state.

The thing we have to look at there is, not just the technical side of it, but also the data standard that's associated with that and the legislative framework. The whole program of work we have been talking about will give us better data on that. Around 4.3 million students in 2021 were undertaking VET. We're working with states and territories, with **NDCR**, with the regulators, with the RTOs, and with the providers that help transfer that data to give us better data closer to real time, closer to when the training occurred.

Yes, we can. A lot of apprenticeship data is publicly available on the **NCDR** website. We can provide to the committee a breakdown of apprenticeships—are you interested in total and training numbers over the past three years?"

The corrected statement is:

Ms Sharp has made an important distinction. In our programs obviously we have very good cohort data and place data. Where we transfer funding to the states and territories we have the **NCVER or National Centre for Vocational Education Research**, which is the National Data Collection Agency, and we rely on the analytics and data collection they undertake to tell us what the entire system looks like essentially. That is not unusual with a shared system. That brings with it its own unique challenges around the currency of data, et cetera. That is probably the best source of understanding for how the entire system is operating across all jurisdictions, Commonwealth and state.

The thing we have to look at there is, not just the technical side of it, but also the data standard that's associated with that and the legislative framework. The whole program of work we have been talking about will give us better data on that. Around 4.3 million students in 2021 were undertaking VET. We're working with states and territories, with **NCVER**, with the regulators, with the RTOs, and with the providers that help transfer that data to give us better data closer to real time, closer to when the training occurred.

Yes, we can. A lot of apprenticeship data is publicly available on the **NCVER** website. We can provide to the committee a breakdown of apprenticeships—are you interested in total and training numbers over the past three years?"

Witness Name: Ms Nadine Williams

Hansard Reference: Page 12

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning enrolments of First Nations students in VET.

The Hansard states:

For example, we're talking about certificate IIIs in individual support or early childhood **and education** care, community services hospitality, et cetera.

The corrected statement is:

For example, we're talking about certificate IIIs in individual support or early childhood education and care, community services, hospitality, et cetera.

Witness Name: Mr Matthew Hardy

Hansard Reference: Page 27

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning delay in reporting of VET data.

The Hansard states:

We're working with states and territories, with NDCR, with the regulators, with the RTOs, and with the providers that help transfer that data to give us better data closer to real time, closer to when the training occurred.

The corrected statement is:

We're working with states and territories, with NCVER, with the regulators, with the RTOs, and with the providers that help transfer that data to give us better data closer to real time, closer to when the training occurred.

Witness Name: Senator Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Hansard Reference: page 52

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the gender balance of current Fair Work Commission members.

The Hansard states:

“Senator Watt: Sorry, I think I might have that. I understand that of the 40 current members of the Fair Work Commission, there are 16 women, so obviously below 50 per cent.”

The corrected statement is:

“Senator Watt: Sorry, I think I might have that. I understand that of the 40 current members of the Fair Work Commission, there are 17 women, so obviously below 50 per cent.”

Witness Name: Sandra Parker

Hansard Reference: page 98

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning Fair Work Inspector site visits.

The Hansard states:

Our inspectors can go in if they reasonably believe the Fair Work Act or an instrument is happening there, in the premises, and if they believe there are records or documents that need to be collected in regard to an investigation.

The corrected statement is:

Our inspectors can go in if they reasonably believe a contravention of the Fair Work Act or an instrument is happening there, in the premises, and if they believe there are records or documents that need to be collected in regard to an investigation.

Witness Name: Rachel Volzke

Hansard Reference: page 101

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the Employer Advisory Service.

The Hansard states:

A focus at the moment—going back to something that Senator Waters raised—is FDV for small business.

The corrected statement is:

A focus at the moment—going back to something that Senator Waters raised—is FDV **leave** for small business.

Witness Name: Sandra Parker

Hansard Reference: page 103

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning Sham contracting.

The Hansard states:

We've also completed up to 31 December last year 757 disputes around sham contracting. We have recovered \$528,000 in entitlements for 121 workers and issued 118 compliance notices.

The corrected statement is:

We've also completed **in the past 2 and a half years** up to 31 December last year 757 disputes around sham contracting. We have recovered \$528,000 in entitlements for 121 workers and issued 118 compliance notices.

Witness Name: Mr Stuart Watson

Hansard Reference: page 19

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning Launch into Work forward estimates funding.

The Hansard states:

The program is allocated just a freckle under **\$19** million per year across the forward estimates.

The corrected statement is:

The program is allocated just a freckle under **\$20** million per year across the forward estimates.

Witness Name: Mr Stuart Watson

Hansard Reference: page 19

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning Launch into Work spending.

The Hansard states:

Given we're starting to ramp up the program late in the financial year, it's probably put on advance notice for the next estimates that we'll struggle to spend that **\$19** million this financial year but we'll give it a red-hot go.

The corrected statement is:

Given we're starting to ramp up the program late in the financial year, it's probably put on advance notice for the next estimates that we'll struggle to spend that **\$20** million this financial year but we'll give it a red-hot go.
