



Australian Government
Department of Education

Our Ref: EC23-003583

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 26 October 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 Kathryn Ries
Acting Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary, Audit and Risk Branch
People, Parliamentary and Communications Division
Australian Government Department of Education

8 December 2023

Corrections to Evidence from 2023–24 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing Thursday, 26 October 2023

Witness Name: Mr Boyd

Hansard Reference: page 33

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning Are these credit cards capped? How much can any particular official incur on a credit card by way of costs?

The Hansard states:

There are two limits. The first is a monthly total spend limit, if you like, of \$10,000, and there's also a cap of \$999 per transaction to try and avoid.

The corrected statement is:

There are two limits. The first is a monthly total spend limit, if you like, of \$10,000, and there's also a cap of \$9,999 per transaction to try and avoid.

Witness Name: Mr Pattie

Hansard Reference: page 36

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning costs associated with a welcome to country and smoking ceremony for The Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership.

The Hansard states:

Mr Pattie: Since 1 June this year, there was a welcome to country for an early childhood and youth group planning event that was \$400 GST inclusive. There was a welcome to country for the research forum, which was \$459 GST inclusive. There was a welcome to country and smoking ceremony for the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership, which totalled \$880 GST inclusive. And there was a welcome to country and smoking ceremony for NAIDOC, which totalled \$1,100 GST inclusive.

The corrected statement is:

Mr Pattie: Since 1 June this year, there was a welcome to country for an early childhood and youth group planning event that was \$400 GST inclusive. There was a welcome to country for the research forum, which was \$459 GST inclusive. There was a welcome to country and smoking ceremony for the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership, which totalled \$800, with no GST applicable. And there was a welcome to country and smoking ceremony for NAIDOC, which totalled \$1,100 GST inclusive.

Witness Name: Mr Cook

Hansard Reference: page 38

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning: Reversing Declining School Standards

The Hansard states:

You would have seen recent announcements—I think every state now has a year 1 phonics test.

The corrected statement is:

You would have seen recent announcements—I think almost every state now has a year 1 phonics test.

Witness Name: Mr Cook

Hansard Reference: page 42

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning: On-Country Learning

The Hansard states:

The government announced the on-country learning measure, which is the agreement with the Northern Territory for \$40.1 million over two years.

The corrected statement is:

The government announced the on-country learning measure, which is the agreement with the Northern Territory for \$40.4 million over two years.

Witness Name: Mr Cook

Hansard Reference: page 42

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning: On-Country Learning

The Hansard states:

“One of the responses to on-country was to ensure that government schools, those 46 schools, I think it was, were moved quickly up to their full schooling resource standard, which is why, out of that funding, the very large majority of that \$40 million...”

The corrected statement is:

“One of the responses to on-country was to ensure that government schools, of those 46 schools, I think it was, were moved quickly up to their full schooling resource standard, which is why, out of that funding, the very large majority of that \$40.4 million...”

Witness Name: Mr Cook

Hansard Reference: page 57

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning: On-Country Learning

The Hansard states:

“Just to be clear, in relation to the agreement, with the funding that these 46 schools have received...”

The corrected statement is:

“Just to be clear, in relation to the agreement, with the funding that these 45 operational schools have received...”

Witness Name: Ms O’Connor

Hansard Reference: page 58

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning: School refusal

The Hansard states:

The department is taking the lead role in terms of coordinating the response to that report. It's due to be responded to by 10 November.

The corrected statement is:

The department is taking the lead role in terms of coordinating the response to that report. It's due to be tabled by 10 November.

Witness Name: Ms Brighton

Hansard Reference: page 70

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the High Achieving Teachers Program

The Hansard states:

That's a pilot program in delivering teachers into the primary sector, and we're expecting, in the next couple of months, to go out with phase 2 of that High Achieving Teachers Program, which is a calling for an extra 1,300 people to join the teaching profession.

The corrected statement is:

That's a pilot program in delivering teachers into the primary sector, and we're expecting, in the next couple of months, to go out with phase 2 of that High Achieving Teachers Program, which is a calling for an extra 1,395 people to join the teaching profession.

Witness Name: Mr David de Carvalho

Hansard Reference: page 79

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning reduction of content in the Australian Curriculum [please note that there is no version 8.9; version 8.4 is followed by version 9.0]

The Hansard states:

In terms of version 8.4 compared to version 8.9

The corrected statement is:

In terms of version 8.4 compared to version 9.0

Witness Name: Ms Twyman

Hansard Reference: page 90

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning CCCF limited supply grant outcomes

The Hansard states:

Thirty-four of those 47 successful providers are family day care services, so we absolutely see the importance of that model. What we're actually looking at here is that it's an expansion model. They're new services. They're already CCS approved for the service, but the areas are new. We're seeing how that works. We also, in that process, have 13 new centre based day care services. Again, we will be looking very closely and working with those organisations to see what works in those thin markets.

I think the really important thing to remember from a lot of the work we do with jurisdictions is that looking at access to early childhood education and care is also a state jurisdictional responsibility. So we've welcomed some of the recent jurisdictional announcements in this space as well. It's really important, through our governance arrangements, that we continue to work together to ensure that there is no duplication but also that there is support for those communities. I won't rattle off some of the ones, but there are a number of them across states, across the jurisdictions that are working closely with us. It is not just in relation to that. Of course, there is the broader Community Child Care Fund, which has around 900 services and around \$500 million. So it's quite an extensive program.

The corrected statement is:

Thirty-four of those 47 successful **grant recipients** are **to establish new** family day care **locations**, so we absolutely see the importance of that model. What we're actually looking at here is that it's an expansion model. They're new services. They're already CCS approved for the service, but the areas are new. We're seeing how that works. We also, in that process, have 13 new centre based day care services. Again, we will be looking very closely and working with those organisations to see what works in those thin markets.

I think the really important thing to remember from a lot of the work we do with jurisdictions is that looking at access to early childhood education and care is also a state jurisdictional responsibility. So we've welcomed some of the recent jurisdictional announcements in this space as well. It's really important, through our governance arrangements, that we continue to work together to ensure that there is no duplication but also that there is support for those communities. I won't rattle off some of the ones, but there are a number of them across states, across the jurisdictions that are working closely with us. It is not just in relation to that. Of course, there is the broader Community Child Care Fund, which has around 900 services and around \$600 million (**\$597.5 million over the next four years**). So it's quite an extensive program.

Witness Name: Ms Twyman**Hansard Reference:** page 90**Evidence Correction:**

Correction of wording to improve clarity

The Hansard states:

'Yes, absolutely. Thank you. Essentially, it's basically because, as you'd be aware, it's a competitive process, so it's dependent on the number of applications that we get. We got a number of applications that didn't meet some of the priority areas that we had stipulated or didn't meet some of the compliance arrangements for the grant funding process. So we've been making it very clear that, while that didn't **commit** to the total amount of the funding in this round, that money will be retained in the program and ploughed back into the program for future support within CCCF.'

The corrected statement is:

'Yes, absolutely. Thank you. Essentially, it's basically because, as you'd be aware, it's a competitive process, so it's dependent on the number of applications that we get. We got a number of applications that didn't meet some of the priority areas that we had stipulated or didn't meet some of the compliance arrangements for the grant funding process. So we've been making it very clear that, while that didn't **equate** to the total amount of the funding in this round, that money will be retained in the program and ploughed back into the program for future support within CCCF.'

Witness Name: Ms Twyman**Hansard Reference:** page 91**Evidence Correction:**

On the topic concerning CCCF limited supply grant

The Hansard states:

This was an open round that was targeted and very new. This was a brand-new type of regional process that we wanted to do very specifically—existing **CCCF services but expanding**.

The corrected statement is:

This was an open round that was targeted and very new. This was a brand-new type of regional process that we wanted to do very specifically—existing **providers but expanding CCCF for new services**.

Witness Name: Mr Rimmer

Hansard Reference: page 125

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning expanding demand-driven access for First Nations students to metropolitan based students

The Hansard states:

Mr Rimmer: The policy reason was that obviously First Nations students' access to university is a very important pathway to transformational access to higher education opportunities. First Nations students are underrepresented in universities, and there was previous experience—in the 2012 to 2018 period, from memory—that wider access for First Nations students prompted significant growth. That was the policy rationale. I think Ms Pearce might be able to help me with the number of students who we think are going to benefit from this initiative over the next period. We've modelled that number, and it was part of the costings in the announcement.

The corrected statement is:

Mr Rimmer: The policy reason was that obviously First Nations students' access to university is a very important pathway to transformational access to higher education opportunities. First Nations students are underrepresented in universities, and there was previous experience—in the 2012 to 2017 period, from memory—that wider access for First Nations students prompted significant growth. That was the policy rationale. I think Ms Pearce might be able to help me with the number of students who we think are going to benefit from this initiative over the next period. We've modelled that number, and it was part of the costings in the announcement.

Witness Name: Ms Zielke

Hansard Reference: page 137

Evidence Correction:

On the topic concerning the gifts and benefits register for the Australian Research Council, 2022-23 and the escape room experience.

The Hansard states:

Our security team used an escape room to help train our staff in some of our security requirements. As a result of that work, the company offered a free session worth \$320, which was very generous of them. We receipted that gift and, subsequently, used it as a raffle. We've provided that money to charity as a result of that, so it was actually quite a nice outcome.

The corrected statement is:

Our security team used a digital escape room to help train our staff in some of our security requirements. As a result of that work, the company offered a free session worth \$320, which was very generous of them. We receipted that gift and, subsequently the voucher was used as a team building exercise by the winning ARC team.
