



**Australian Government**

**Austrade**

16 November 2021

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz  
Chair  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Abetz

I am writing to correct evidence I provided to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee during Austrade's 2021–22 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 28 October 2021.

During the hearing, in response to questions from Senator Farrell on the Business Events Grants program (see Hansard proof, page 96), I misspoke when noting Austrade undertook a survey of grantees in August this year, which found that the attendees spent funds '**from the grant**' (in 24 per cent of cases) on attending attractions, as well as going to the event in the location that they were travelling to. However, the funds referred to in the survey were the grantees' own, with attendance at attractions occurring due to the grant being provided for travel to attend the event. The words 'from the grant' should not have been included in this sentence.

In response to questions from Senator Farrell regarding the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program, specifically the engagement of Deloitte to undertake verification work (see Hansard proof, pages 105–106), I was incorrectly advised and stated the third panel member on the selection panel was Jason Naumovski, Senior Adviser for Tourism Recovery. However, it was instead Karen Jacobson, Manager, Tourism Recovery. Mr Naumovski was the scribe.

Lastly, Senator Kitching asked (see Hansard proof, page 114) what was the total cost of applications received and awarded by the (Business Events) program by 11 March 2021. My response in the hearing related to the data as at 30 March 2021. The data shows that on 11 March 2021, 991 applications had been received requesting \$30,356,113 in funding. Of these 991, 505 had been assessed, and 376 were assessed as eligible for a total of \$13,054,312 funding as at 11 March 2021.

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I apologise for the errors and would be grateful if you could convey this corrected information to members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Sam Palmer  
General Manager  
Visitor Economy and Client Programs