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Auditor-General for Australia



20 March 2023

Senator Louise Pratt
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Finance and Public Administration
By email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Pratt

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing
on 13 February 2023**

I wish to clarify evidence provided in response to the Committee's questions during the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 13 February 2023.

This relates to evidence provided to the Committee in response to Senator Roberts' questions about contributions to the [Administration of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements](#) performance audit (page 107 of Proof Committee Hansard), including these statements:

Mr Hehir: Because of the circumstances of this one, it makes it quite difficult. It's my view that I don't have jurisdiction to cover the issue they've raised with us, because, from the inquiries I've made, there are no Commonwealth funds involved in the issues they've raised.

Ms Mellor: Some people who've made submissions—and I don't know the total number, but there are a few submissions in there—have raised questions about payments. From our inquiries, they're not payments that were made by the Commonwealth, so we don't have jurisdiction.

The above statements reflected my and Ms Mellor's understanding of the matter at the time. However, following the concerns raised in this hearing I have re-examined the information available to me and identified Commonwealth funding may have been involved with some of the issues raised.

The Australian National Audit Office is considering these issues, potentially as part of the audit mentioned above.

Yours sincerely

Grant Hehir

GPO Box 707, Canberra ACT 2601
38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603
Phone: +61 2 6203 7300
Email: grant.hehir@anao.gov.au

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