



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

10 April 2018

Mr Timothy Watling
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Watling

The Home Affairs Portfolio appeared at the Senate Additional Estimates Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee hearing on Monday 26 February 2018.

In my capacity as Deputy Secretary, I gave evidence to the Senate and have reviewed the Hansard record. In relation to my testimony, I have become aware of the need to correct a response I made to a question from Senator Pratt.

The particular reference for correction is on page 101 from 26 February 2018 in response to the question from Senator Pratt *"But I do highlight to you that page 3 of the review said:*

It is also quite possible that other Australian citizens have been detained or removed in similar circumstances, including in cases unrelated to cancellation on character grounds."

My response to this question was, *"We've gone back to decisions of cancellation and removal, not just on character grounds, back to 2014, I think it was. In those cases—of course, in any case of cancellation—people are able to seek a revocation of that cancellation. We've looked at all of those who sought revocation and again assured ourselves that none of those involved anything to do with the citizenship"*.

My remarks were provided in the context of detention, however to remove any ambiguity I am providing the following clarification of evidence in response to this question:

"We are currently going back to decisions of cancellation and removal, whether or not people are in detention, not just on character grounds, back to 2014, I think it was. In those cases—of course, in any case of cancellation—people are able to seek a revocation of that cancellation. We've looked at all of those in detention who sought revocation and again assured ourselves that none of those involved anything to do with the citizenship."

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification, which will ensure that correct information has been provided to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely

Malisa Golightly
Deputy Secretary
Visa and Citizenship Services Group