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16 November 2020

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 600
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard

I write to you concerning evidence provided to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Senate Estimates hearing on 21 October 2020.

The Attorney-General's Department has identified the following clarification.

Evidence of Michael Kingston, Australian Government Solicitor

On page 94 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Siewert, I stated:

Mr Kingston: 'What I do have some notice of and where AGS has been more involved is in relation to the litigation claims that have been brought by some child migrants who were at a Fairbridge facility in Western Australia. Some of our communications, at least with Grant Thornton or perhaps more accurately their lawyers, relate to that and to whether there might be money available, which would be a contribution towards the Commonwealth in funding liability or possibly settlement in those claims.'

AGS's communications have been directly with Grant Thornton, and not with any lawyers engaged by Grant Thornton.

Please contact me should further information be required.

Yours sincerely

Michael Kingston
Australian Government Solicitor