



13 December 2022

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard – Senate Estimates hearing on 7 November 2022

I am writing to provide a clarification to evidence I gave to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Senate Estimates hearing on 7 November 2022.

On page 108 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Nampijinpa Price regarding the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Summit, I said:

Ms Oscar: Yes, of course. The four key thematic areas that we're focused on are: economic empowerment; the issues of Indigenous women's roles in leadership and decision-making; the need to acknowledge the unpaid care work that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women provide; and the need for an acknowledgement of Indigenous women's cultural knowledges that inform what it is that women do in their communities and how their cultural knowledge, their cultural responsibilities and their languages can be better supported in and across the country. That was something that we heard very loud and clear. We also want to focus within that on issues around women's knowledges and the impact of climate change and water rights; the issue of intergenerational trauma and how that is impacting the lives of so many families across the country; and how we can do better in responding to how it is that women and girls aspire to the response and how they want to design that. They have been some key areas. As you will see in the report, we have covered quite an extensive

range of issues that impact the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

I wish to clarify that the four thematic areas identified in the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Implementation Framework are:

- Leadership and decision-making for self-determination
- Language, land, water and cultural rights
- Societal healing and intergenerational wellbeing
- Economic justice and empowerment

On pages 108-109 of the transcript, in response to a subsequent question from Senator Nampijinpa Price regarding the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Project, I said:

Ms Oscar: That's a very important question. This is a project that was initially funded by NIAA, and just recently, on 25 November, the Australian government publicly announced a \$2.76 million commitment to stage 3 of Wiyi Yani U Thangani. This is part of the work that needed to be undertaken leading up to the summit. The MOU between the Australian Human Rights Commission and NIAA was extended to 30 June this year, under which the first \$429,000 of stage 3 funding was provided. An Indigenous Advancement Strategy funding agreement was signed on 30 June 2022 to provide the remainder of the stage 3 funding commitment, which is \$2.331 million. But, in addition to government funding, the commission is also seeking corporate and philanthropic sponsorship to support stage 3, and we are currently in talks with potential partners. So the funding received from government has in no way covered the total cost of the project, but we're very grateful for the investment from government to date.

I wish to clarify that the total funding received for the delivery of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Project from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and its successor agency, the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) for the period 2017 to 2024 is \$5.71 million.

This includes \$2.95m provided for the first two stages of the project (2017-2021) and \$2.76m for the third and final stage of the Project (2022-24) which includes a

First Nations Women and Girls National Summit which will be held in Canberra on 9-11 May 2023.

With respect to the Stage Three funding, \$429,000 has been provided under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and \$2.331m is covered under an Indigenous Advancement Strategy funding agreement.

The action officer for this matter is

Yours sincerely

June Oscar AO
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner