



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Acting Secretary

EC24-001555

17 July 2024

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

Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

I write regarding the appearance of the Attorney-General's Department at the recent Budget Estimates hearing of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee from 30-31 May 2024. I enclose three letters clarifying evidence from the department's appearance at the hearings.

The action officer for this matter is _____ who can be contacted on _____

Yours sincerely

Sarah Chidgey PSM
Acting Secretary

Encl.

Clarification letter - Mr Gifford, Chief Operating Officer, Attorney-General's Department
Clarification letter - Ms Bogaart, First Assistant Secretary, Attorney-General's Department
Clarification letter - Ms Wang, Assistant Secretary, Attorney-General's Department



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Chief Operating Officer

24#333893DOC

25 June 2024

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard – Budget Estimates hearing on 30 May 2024

I am writing to clarify evidence I provided to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Budget Estimates hearing on 30 May 2024.

On page 9 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Ghosh regarding the department's progress in achieving national employment targets for First Nations people, I said:

Mr Gifford: Twenty-five of our staff members identify as First Nations.

On 17 June 2024, officers in the Attorney-General's Department identified that this sentence is incorrect when read in isolation as this figure referred to those employees who fell within the classifications in scope for employment targets. The correct figure for all classifications is 28, excluding employees on long term leave.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Gifford
Chief Operating Officer
Enabling Services Group
Attorney-General's Department



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

21 June 2024

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

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard – Legal and constitutional affairs legislation hearing on 29 May 2024

I am writing to correct evidence I provided to the Senate Standing Committee regarding the National Legal Assistance Partnership independent report provided by Dr Mundy during the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Estimates hearing on 29 May 2024.

On p81 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Cash regarding the department reviewing the independent report provided by Dr Mundy I said:

Ms Bogaart: We've reviewed it in the sense that we've read it, but it was an independent report provided to us by Dr Mundy. We did not make changes or suggest things in the report.

I wish to clarify that the department provided information to the reviewer between the draft and final reports, to correct inaccuracies and provide factual information. We did not make any changes to the final report.

The action officer for this matter is _____ who can be contacted on _____

Yours sincerely

Esther Bogaart



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

08 July 2024

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

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard – Legal and constitutional affairs legislation hearing on 29 May 2024

I am writing to correct evidence I provided to the Senate Standing Committee during the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Estimates hearing on 29 May 2024.

On page 74 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Cash regarding the Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) Grant Opportunity Guidelines I said:

Ms Wang: That was a very important context that I was going to outline, but it was a very quick period. We didn't do any substantive work at all. Then we provided all of those documents and also the previous guidelines, as Ms Harvey outlined. It was an old program that sat with the department. There were previous guidelines. We provided all of those documents to DCCEEW. I can take on notice about when that was, but my understanding is that it was very early on, shortly after the election.

On 27 June 2024, officers in the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) identified that early drafts of documents had been developed by the then responsible officers based on their exploratory policy analysis. Therefore, I wish to clarify my statement of "We didn't do any substantive work at all". Prior to transferring the EDO election commitment to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for implementation, exploratory work had been carried out by departmental officers.

The action officer for this matter is _____ who can be contacted on _____

Yours sincerely

Lace Wang