

Ms Ann Palmer  
Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Palmer

I am writing to further clarify my response to questions asked during Arrangements for the postal survey hearings of the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee, on Thursday, 17 August 2017.

Committee Chair asked, *“What then does that mean about the role for the Finance Minister? What is his role in the process?”* (page 3).

I would like to update the statement: *“Basically he’s the lead Minister responsible for this endeavour and he’ll be providing us with advice”*. A more accurate statement is: *“Basically he’s the lead Minister responsible for this endeavour and the ABS will be advising him as the lead Minister.”*

Committee Chair asked, *“And you’re very clear that, as far as approval goes, it is only the Finance Minister who you’ll need to speak to gain approval for any decisions?”* (page 4).

I would like to clarify my statement: *“I’m not sure about any decisions, but certainly the Finance Minister’s the lead Minister on this.”* A more accurate statement is: *“The Finance Minister is the lead Minister and is responsible for making decisions relating to this process and the operation of the survey is a matter for the Australian Statistician.”*

Further, my colleague Ms Palmer has identified that she accidentally, incorrectly advised the Committee that \$305,000 has been allocated to Indigenous Media in the media buy. The correct number is \$81,000 with \$305,000 allocated to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Media.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Palmer  
Deputy Australian Statistician  
Marriage Collection Taskforce  
31 August 2017