



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Home Affairs**

The Hon Julian Hill MP  
Committee Chair  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
PO BOX 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

As you are aware, the Home Affairs Portfolio appeared at the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (the Committee) hearing on 1 February 2024.

Acting First Assistant Secretary, Ms Jodie Bjerregaard gave evidence to the Committee in relation to Partner visa lodgement trends. I have reviewed the Hansard record and have become aware of the need to correct a response that Ms Bjerregaard provided to the Committee.

The particular reference for correction is on page 19 of the Hansard transcript in response to the following questions found at page 18:

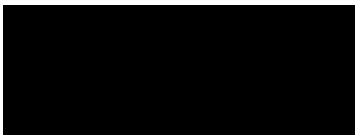
*What's the trend in partner visa applications? Have we seen consistent growth in the rate of applications?*

Ms Bjerregaard stated the lodgement growth percentage had increased by 28 per cent. I have subsequently been advised that this percentage was not accurate and I am providing the following correction of evidence:

*As at 26 January, our first partner visa lodgements have increased this program year by 22.8 per cent compared with the year-to-date period for 2022-23.*

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification to ensure that the correct information can be provided to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Ms Karin Maier  
Acting First Assistant Secretary  
Immigration Programs Division

12 April 2024