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Sent: Wednesday, 15 August 2012 5:49 PM
To: Committee, EEWorkplaceBullying (REPS)
Subject: Australian Public Service Commission - Correction of evidence

Dear Mr Worthington

Please find attached a letter signed jointly by the Australian Public Service Commissioner and the Merit Protection Commissioner, seeking to make two small corrections to their submission of 6 July 2012 to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment Inquiry into Workplace Bullying.

A hard copy of the letter has been posted to you.

Regards

Helena Sverdlin | Assistant Director
Ethics Advisory Service
Australian Public Service Commission



Mr Glen Worthington
Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Worthington

Correction of evidence: House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment Inquiry into Workplace Bullying

On 6 July 2012 we made a joint submission to the Committee's Inquiry into Workplace Bullying.

We wish to make two small corrections to that evidence.

1. Our submission stated on pp. 2–3:

Over the last five years (2007–08 to 2011–12), of the 48 cases involving allegations of bullying and harassment referred to the Merit Protection Commissioner by an employee for review, agency decisions were varied or set aside in only six cases (or 12.5%).

The paragraph should have read as follows:

Over the last five years (2007–08 to 2011–12), of the 60 cases involving allegations of bullying and harassment referred to the Merit Protection Commissioner by an employee for review, agency decisions were varied or set aside in only eight cases (or 13%).

The misinformation was provided in the context of incomplete data being available in the transition to a new financial year.

2. In addition, Attachment A to our submission stated:

Agency heads must establish procedures for determining whether an employee has breached the Code of Conduct (ss 15 (3)) and may impose sanctions set out in the Act (ss 15(4)) where employees are found to have breached the Code.

The paragraph should have referred to subsection 15(1) of the Act, rather than ss 15(4). The mistake was a drafting error.

We apologise for these errors, which were inadvertent.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Sedgwick AO
Public Service Commissioner

15 August 2012

Annwyn Ggawin
Merit Protection Commissioner

15 August 2012