



Dr Ian Holland
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

I refer to the appearance by representatives of the Human Services portfolio before the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee on 4 June 2013.

The Department of Human Services seeks the following amendments to the Hansard record of the hearing to correct some minor factual errors in evidence given by Mr Darren Box, Chief Financial Officer. Mr Box is currently on leave, so I am writing on his behalf.

In responding to questions from Senator Fifield, Mr Box made three separate references (on page 62, page 65 and page 67 of the Hansard transcript) to the expected savings arising from an efficiency measure to replace the use of cheques to pay Medicare benefits to doctors with electronic funds transfers.

The evidence given on page 65 and on page 67 is correct. However, some figures quoted on page 62 are not correct. The Department requests that the following evidence,

Mr Box: We are just getting the breakdown for you for each of those measures. We have the figure for replacing cheques with AFT for you. In 2013-14 it is actually an increase in costs to set it up of \$0.9 million. There are then savings in the out years. The saving for 2014-15 is \$2.8 million; 2015-16, \$2.7 million; and in 2016-17, \$2.6 million.

be amended to read:

Mr Box: We are just getting the breakdown for you for each of those measures. We have the figure for replacing cheques with AFT for you. In 2013-14 it is actually an increase in costs to set it up of \$0.9 million. There are then savings in the out years. The saving for 2014-15 is \$2.9 million; 2015-16, \$2.8 million; and in 2016-17, \$2.7 million.

The figures that have been changed are highlighted. These amendments make this evidence correct and consistent with that elsewhere in the Hansard record.

It would be appreciated if you would endorse these changes. Should you require any clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Phil Ruff on 02 6223 4185.

Yours sincerely

Peter Thomson
National Manager
Ministerial Coordination and Parliamentary Branch

21 June 2013