



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Ms Radcliffe

**Request for Amendment to Evidence Provided at Budget Estimates Hearing,
2 June 2014: Outcome 2 - Access to Pharmaceuticals**

I am writing to correct a statement that I made at the Budget Estimates Hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on Monday 2 June 2014.

Senator Siewert asked the following question:

“Can you tell me how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders receive support – and take it on notice if you do not have it straight away – through the Close the Gap program please?”

My response was as follows:

“As at 31 March 2014, there are 258,316.”

Senator Siewert then asked the following question “That is for the financial year up to the end of March. Is that correct?”

To which my response was “that is correct”.

It has been brought to my attention that the response should be amended as follows:

“As at 31 March 2014, there are 258,316 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients who had received a ‘Closing the Gap’ benefit since the measure’s commencement on 1 July 2010. 171,487 patients had received a ‘Closing the Gap’ benefit between 1 July 2013 and 30 March 2014”.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felicity McNeill', written over a horizontal line.

Felicity McNeill
First Assistant Secretary
Pharmaceutical Benefits Division

12 June 2014