



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

Senator Zed Seselja  
Chair  
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

**Correction of evidence/clarification of an answer to 2015-16 Budget Estimates  
Hearing on 3-5 June 2015.**

I am writing to correct evidence/clarify an answer provided to the Committee during its examination of the Department of Social Services in relation to Cross Outcomes/  
Corporate Matters.

In answering a question from Senator Carol Brown regarding the number of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the Department, I said:

*We have received 132 requests under the FOI Act this financial year to 31 March.*

However, this number is incorrect and the correct number is 145.

I also said:

*Of the 132 that we have processed to date this year, eight have been dealt with on the basis that they were completely subject to an exemption.*

The correct number of FOI requests in which documents were completely exempt is 11.

I also said:

*Of the 132 requests, again, 35 were withdrawn.*

The correct number of withdrawn requests is 36.

I also said:

*Thirty four requests were responded to on the basis that documents were disclosed to the requester either in full or in part.*

The correct number of requests where documents were disclosed either in full or in part is 58.

Yours sincerely



Janean Richards  
Chief Legal Counsel and Group Manager  
Legal Services Group

26 June 2015