



6 September 2007

Senator Michael Ronaldson
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Economics
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Ronaldson

**Subject: amendment to evidence given at the Budget Estimates hearing of 27
May 2007:**

I am writing to advise of corrections to some figures quoted at Budget estimates which need to be changed:

- **Reference E63 of the draft Hansard Ms Vivians evidence:**
re the paragraph commencing '*the breakdown*': 'The advertising agency is around \$2.5 million, The creative production costs are around \$2.1 million.' This should be corrected to read "The advertising agency is around \$2.7 million which includes creative productive costs of around \$2.1 million'.
- same para as above, the sentence 'For printing and distribution, there is about \$1.65 million.' This should be corrected as follows "For printing and distribution, there is about \$3.6 million.'

I would also like to advise of a further correction to Tax Office evidence given by the Tax Office:

- **Reference E41 Senator CAROL BROWN**—If I were to ring that number now, I would be getting a real person there to talk to me and not a recording?
Ms Crawford—Yes, there would be.
- **Correction to evidence from Ms Crawford:**
Taxpayers ringing their previous contact number **would receive a voice message** advising of a new contact number which they could ring to speak with a tax officer about their case.

Tax Office evidence in relation to AGE article of 26 March 2007

Reference E82

In the Committee's hearings of 29 May 2007, Ms J. Granger, Second Commissioner of Taxation, was asked some questions in relation to an article appearing in the Age newspaper of 26 March 2007, claiming that "criminal syndicates had stolen more than \$5b since 2003, by setting up false companies and submitting fake BAS forms to claim refunds."

As indicated by Ms Granger, it is the case that we have not seen the document to which the Age article referred. However, based on some information and figures used in the story, we have identified a report by a former ATO officer which maybe in the hands of the Age.

In addition I would like to advise of words missing from Hansard:

- There seems to be a whole section missing here: - from page 62 when returning after the break, Hansard have not recorded the conversation that lead into this - for instance there was a question to the Commissioner about overall ATO advertising costs that he took on notice which is not here, also there was some info where Senator Sherry then specifically asked about Super Simpler, what I said at last estimates and then I gave the overall figures over two years - which then lead to my opening statement of YES and his follow up question.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Howe', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Julie Howe
Acting Director
Issues Management and Government Relations
Policy Management Division
Australian Taxation Office