



AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER
LYNELLE BRIGGS



Senator Mason
Chairperson
Finance and Public Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Mason

During Additional Estimates Hearings (14 February 2005), Senator Carr asked me about numbers of Indigenous employees in the Australian Public Service and asked a question about evidence given by the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Dr Shergold, before the Senate Select Committee on Indigenous Affairs on 8 February 2005.

On the following day I responded to the Committee and provided, inter alia, a table of data extracted from the 2003-04 State of the Service Report.

I have today learned that that table contained 2 minor errors. The total numbers for 1995 should be 3234 rather than 3236 (individual numbers in the column remain unchanged). The percentage of trainees in 1995 should read 16.2% rather than 16.6%. The latter figure was also provided to the Committee as part of the Commission's response to Questions on Notice following the November 2004 Estimates process.

The error in the table published in the 2003-04 State of the Service Report occurred during the typesetting process, when corrections to the data were not included in the final copy. The corrected table is as follows:

Table 8.7: Ongoing representation of Indigenous employees by classification

	1995		2003		2004	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
APS 1—2	1122	3.7	326	4.2	291	3.7
APS 3—4	1283	3.2	1374	3.1	1390	3.1
APS 5—6	597	1.7	876	2.2	834	2.0
Executive	128	0.6	247	1.0	260	1.0
SES	13	0.7	27	1.4	24	1.3
Trainee	34	16.2	62	12.7	30	8.8
Graduate trainee	26	2.9	25	3.3	10	2.7
Other	31	1.7	0	-	0	-
Total	3234	2.5	2937	2.4	2839	2.3

Source: APSED


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I am taking this opportunity to advise the Committee of this error. Please pass these revisions to the Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs.

I have advised the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of the amendments. Appropriate changes are also being made to the electronic version of the State of the Service Report.

Yours sincerely,



Lynette Biggs
1 March 2005