



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CORRECTION TO EVIDENCE Additional Estimates 11 February 2013

I wish to advise the following corrections to the record in relation to evidence provided at the Additional Estimates hearing on 11 February 2013 concerning the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

1. On page 88 of the Proof Hansard for Monday 11 February 2013, Ms Taylor is quoted as follows:

Senator RYAN: Would it be the normal case that there is someone who does it all the time and reports to you as managing it, from what I gathered earlier? Do you have a normal management structure where one person does it, whether or not that position is vacant or whether or not someone new has started—I am not interested in names, for obvious reasons—or is it a situation where that team covers the portfolio and different people get assigned to the work as it arises?

Ms Taylor: I guess the best answer I can give you is that within that team we would focus our attention on the priority issues of the day. **Small business issues do not often come up in terms of issues that are before the Prime Minister or before the cabinet.** I guess our focus of resource tends to focus on those issues which are before the Prime Minister or the cabinet. So I guess we would move our resources in accordance with the priorities.

The highlighted sentence is not correct. Ms Taylor wishes to correct her evidence with the following statement:

“Small business impacts are assessed in every Submission that comes before the Cabinet. In addition, the Government has recently appointed the Small Business Commissioner to advocate for and represent the interests of small business directly to the Government. The Small Business Commissioner reports to the Minister for Small Business who is a Cabinet Minister. Mr Mark Brennan was announced as the inaugural Australian Small Business Commissioner in October 2012 and commenced in this role on 2 January 2013. In addition, the Prime Minister and other relevant Commonwealth Ministers have been closely engaged with the small business sector in addressing small business regulatory and other issues through reforms being progressed through the Council of Australian Governments, particularly through the Business Advisory Forum and national occupational trades licensing.”

2. On page 88 of the Proof Hansard for Monday 11 February 2013, Dr McCarthy is quoted as follows:

a) **Senator ABETZ:** Are you aware, as the national security adviser, whether any audit of material installed in government computer equipment or networks, which might give rise to potential security risks, has been undertaken?

Dr McCarthy: The Defence Signals Directorate does undertake such work. For the details I would refer you to the Department of Defence.

Dr McCarthy wishes to correct her response as follows:

“The Defence Signals Directorate provides advice and assistance to, and undertakes vulnerability assessments for Commonwealth, State and Territory authorities on the security of their information and networks rather than formal audits. For the details I refer you to the Department of Defence.”

b) **Senator ABETZ:** So an audit has been undertaken?

Dr McCarthy: The Defence Signals Directorate does undertake that sort of work, but I would refer you to them for the details.

Dr McCarthy wishes to correct her response as follows:

“The Defence Signals Directorate provides advice and assistance to, and undertakes vulnerability assessments for Commonwealth, State and Territory authorities on the security of their information and networks, but I refer you to them for the details”.

c) **Senator ABETZ:** No. Has there been an audit of material installed? It is a simple question. You are either aware of it or not.

Dr McCarthy: The Defence Signals Directorate undertakes work in relation to particular agencies on an agency by agency basis, but I would refer you to them for the details.

Dr McCarthy wishes to correct her response as follows:

“The Defence Signals Directorate provides advice and assistance to, and undertakes vulnerability assessments for Commonwealth, State and Territory authorities, but I would refer you to them for the details”.

d) **Senator ABETZ:** No, the DSD will not be able to tell me whether the national security adviser is aware whether an audit has been undertaken. They might be able to tell me whether they are aware, but they will not be able to tell me whether the national security adviser is aware. That is why I am asking the national security adviser. She is either aware or she is not aware.

Dr McCarthy: I am aware that Defence Signals Directorate has undertaken audits but for the specific details, if indeed they are able to share those, I would refer you to the Defence Signals Directorate.

Dr McCarthy wishes to correct her response as follows:

“I am aware that the Defence Signals Directorate provides advice and assistance to, and undertakes vulnerability assessments for Commonwealth, State and Territory authorities but for the specific details, if indeed they are able to share those, I would refer you to the Defence Signals Directorate.”

3. On page 109 of the Proof Hansard for Monday 11 February 2013, Ms Leon is quoted as follows:

Ms Leon: Dr Watt spoke with the former Prime Minister while we were conducting our own internal investigation and kept him informed about the progress of that investigation.

Ms Leon wishes to correct this statement by advising that Dr Watt only spoke to the former Prime Minister's Chief of Staff.

CORRECTION TO EVIDENCE
Supplementary Budget Estimates Monday 15 October 2012

4. We wish to correct the record in relation to responses provided to Questions on Notice following the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on Monday 15 October 2012.

Question No 15

Original answer provided:

- The direct cost of the Social Inclusion Unit in the 2011-12 financial year, including the cost of the Australian Social Inclusion Board, was around \$2.16 million (comprising costs of \$2.09 million for the Unit and \$77,000 for the Board). This does not include support from other Divisions and corporate overheads within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Correction:

- The cost of the Social Inclusion Unit in the 2011-12 financial year, including the cost of the Australian Social Inclusion Board, was around \$2.14 million (comprising costs of \$2.066 million for the Unit and \$75,753.36 for the Board). This does not include support from other Divisions and corporate overheads within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Question No 15

Original answer provided:

- Staff costs for the Social Inclusion Unit for 2011-2012 are estimated to be around \$1,935,243. Other direct costs of the Unit (such as flights, publications etc) for the 2011-12 Financial year are estimated to total \$157,628.29, leading to a total cost for the Unit for that financial year of around \$2.09 million.

Correction:

- Staff costs for the Social Inclusion Unit for 2011-2012 are estimated to be around \$1,660,935. Other costs of the Unit (such as flights, publications etc) for the 2011-12 Financial year are estimated to total \$405,065, leading to a total cost for the Unit for that financial year of around \$2.066 million.

Original answer provided:

- The Board sitting fees for 2011-12 were \$16,288.50. The other direct costs of the Board (such as flights, accommodation, publications etc) for 2011-12 were around \$55,700, leading to a total cost for the Board of around \$72,000.

Correction:

- The Board sitting fees for 2011-12 were \$33,508. The other costs of the Board (such as flights, accommodation, publications etc) for 2011-12 were around \$42,245, leading to a total cost for the Board of around \$75,753.

Question No 88

Original answer provided:

Ms Shelley Reys AO	30/03/2011 to 29/03/11
Ms Renee Leon	16/09/2011 to 14/09/2014
Dr Bruce Walker	06/05/2009 to 04/05/2013
Ms Suzie Haslehurst	15/12/2011 to 14/12/2013

Correction:

Ms Shelley Reys AO	30/03/2011 to 29/03/2014
Ms Renee Leon	13/09/2011 to 14/09/2014
Dr Bruce Walker	05/05/2012 to 04/05/2013
Ms Suzie Haslehurst	15/12/2011 - Resigned 23/07/2012

Question No 89

Original answer provided:

Ms Shelley Reys AO	30/03/2011 to 29/03/11
Ms Renee Leon	16/09/2011 to 14/09/2014
Dr Bruce Walker	06/05/2009 to 04/05/2013

Correction:

Ms Shelley Reys AO	30/03/2011 to 29/03/2014
Ms Renee Leon	13/09/2011 to 14/09/2014
Dr Bruce Walker	05/05/2012 to 04/05/2013

Renee Leon
Deputy Secretary
Governance

4 April 2013