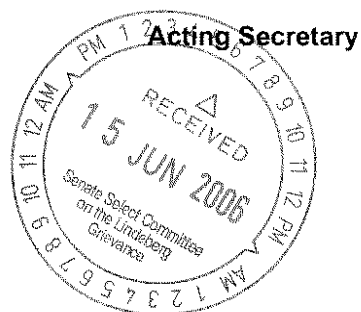




Australian Government
Department of Human Services

Mr Alister Sands
Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration
Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Sands

ESTIMATES HEARING OF 25 MAY 2006 – CORRECTION TO RESPONSE

I am writing to correct evidence I provided in response to a question from Senator Moore during the appearance of the Department of Humans Services at the 25 May 2006 hearings of the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee.

Senator Moore asked whether there had been a review of the Medicare Easyclaim program, this enquiry appears on Hansard page F&PA 132. At Hansard page F&PA 132, I stated that some form of review of this program would have been attached to Human Services Portfolio Budget Submission.

While it is normal practice for lapsing programs seeking an extension to be accompanied by a review, I am advised that in this instance it was not required. The Medicare Easyclaim program is composed of a number of separate measures, each of which will lapse and require review at different intervals. To streamline the reporting processes, the Government decided that the 200 Easyclaim booths measure would be extended and that a single review of the whole program would be conducted for consideration in the 2007-08 Budget.

It would be appreciated if you could bring this correction to the attention of the Committee.

Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact my office on 6223-4410.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Leeper
12 June 2006