



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**



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

**Estimates hearings of Monday 22 May 2006 – correction to response**

Dear Mr Sands

I wish to correct some evidence I provided to Senator the Hon Chris Evans during the appearance of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) at the 22 May 2006 hearings of the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee.

Senator Evans asked about a working group established to advise the Prime Minister on family violence in Indigenous communities. I advised the Committee that a working group was established within PM&C from around November 2003 to March 2004 to lead discussions with each state and territory on possible joint initiatives to address those issues. I would like to clarify the facts and correct the record.

The working group the Prime Minister mentioned in his July 2003 announcement comprised five indigenous leaders and approximately seven senior officials from the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services, the Department of Families and Community Services and PM&C. PM&C led the working group until the end of August 2003 and three of its officers were involved.

I would appreciate you bringing this matter to the attention of the Committee.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6271 5301.

Yours sincerely

Serena Wilson  
First Assistant Secretary  
Social Policy Division  
15 June 2006