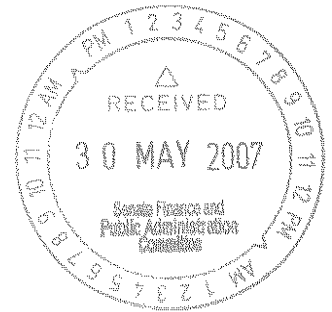




Australian Government

Department of Finance and Administration



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Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Senate Estimates Committee Hearing of 23 May 2007 - Corrections

I am writing to clarify two responses that I provided on a matter raised by Senator Wong during the Finance and Public Administration Senate Estimates Committee hearings on 23 May 2007 which, in my view, may have contained errors of fact. The aim is to ensure that Senator Wong is correctly informed and Finance's record is correctly stated.


The matter related to Senator Wong's statement that "The ANAO report said DOFA's compliance for 2005 was 59 per cent and for 2006 it increased to 62 per cent" and a follow-up question. The relevant Hansard reference is: Wednesday, 23 May 2007 Senate F&PA page107 (draft Hansard).

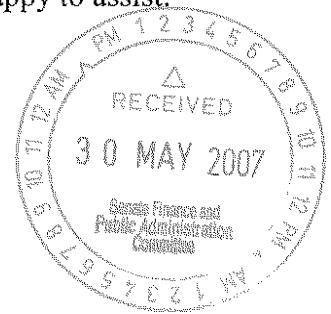
I believe that I may have unintentionally responded to these questions incorrectly. After referring to the draft Hansard and reviewing a number of Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) reports, I have been unable to identify the data to which Senator Wong referred. I can confirm that, if Senator Wong was referring to ANAO Report No. 21 – *Implementation of the revised Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines*, Finance was not one of the agencies audited.

The error arose because I was confused about the ANAO report to which Senator Wong was referring. I did not have the detail of the report and I relied on my general recollection. I should have confirmed the factual information before responding.

I apologise for those errors. I can only assure you that they were not intentional. Should Senator Wong require further clarification on the matter, I would be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely


John Grant
Division Manager
Procurement Division



29 May 2007