



**SENATOR THE HON. CHRISTOPHER ELLISON**

Minister for Human Services  
Senator for Western Australia

Senator Mitch Fifield  
Chair  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Chair

As you are aware, at the Senate Committee hearing late last night I indicated that I did not believe I was a shareholder Minister for Health Services Australia Limited. I am writing to clarify that statement.

Early yesterday I was informed by officers of Health Services Australia Limited that recent scrutiny indicated that I was not a shareholder Minister according to the relevant shareholder register. Although the shareholder register accurately records that the Commonwealth of Australia is the legal owner of the shares, the shareholder register does not record my status as a holder of the shares for the Commonwealth.

Following my request for urgent investigation and advice from my Department, I have since been informed that the constitution for Health Services Australia Limited was amended by special resolution in early 2005 following changes to the Administrative Arrangements Orders in late 2004. The Australian Securities and Investment Commission was appropriately notified of the constitutional change. Accordingly, I am therefore informed that I am a shareholder Minister for Health Services Australia Limited.

I am seeking immediate action to update the shareholder register to formally reflect my details as a shareholder Minister. This will be notified to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission as soon as possible.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely

**CHRIS ELLISON**  
Senator for Western Australia