



Australian Government
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Mr Steve Palethorpe
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2602

Dear Mr Palethorpe

I am writing to you to correct the record of evidence given at the Senate Estimates hearing of the Finance and Public Administration Committee on May 25, 2009.

During the Estimates proceedings, Senator Cormann asked "Have you provided advice to the Prime Minister in the context of the budget about the increased tax on RTDs (ready-to-drink beverages)?" (Hansard transcript, Finance and Public Administration Committee, 25 May 2009, p117)

The responsible official from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet replied that since the last Estimates appearance (in February 2009), the department had provided advice to government on the RTD excise issue on seven occasions.

Senator Cormann wrote to Senator Faulkner requesting a copy of the advice referred to during the Estimates hearing.

In preparing a response for Senator Cormann, officers from this department reviewed the items of advice provided on the dates indicated in the transcript. It is now clear from this review that only one item of advice provided to the Prime Minister related to the actual question asked by Senator Cormann (ie Did the department provide advice in the Budget context about the RTD excise?). The remaining items of advice provided were not about RTD's but broader health-related matters.

I apologise for the delay in providing this correction to the record, and ask that you draw it to the attention of Committee members.

Yours sincerely

Glenys Beauchamp
Deputy Secretary

12 October 2009