



**Australian Government**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

Reference: RMS09/01990  
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Ms Christine McDonald  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

**CORRECTION TO ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

At the Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2009-10, this Department provided details of programs which are growing faster than 2 per cent per annum in real terms (refer to F24).

I wish to advise that, while the list of programs remains correct, the calculations of the annual average real growth figures for the Commonwealth Debt Management, Higher Education Loan and Defence Support programs were incorrectly reported as they were calculated using incorrect base figures for 2009-10.

The correct growth rate for the Commonwealth Debt Management program is 23.2 per cent, that of the Higher Education Loan program is 5.4 per cent, and that of the Defence Support program is 3.7 per cent. The real growth calculations for the remaining 29 programs are all confirmed as correct.

I would like to note that the incorrect growth calculations arose solely from an anomaly that resulted in incorrect figures being drawn from an ad hoc system report. This report is not usually used for reporting purposes and the errors have no implications for any data published in other documents, such as the Budget papers, including the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Nicol'.

David Nicol  
Division Manager  
Budget Policy and Coordination Division  
5 February 2010