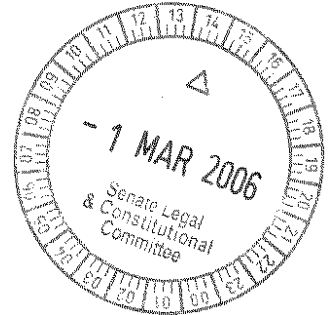




**Australian Government**  
**Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs**



Senator Payne  
Committee Chair  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Payne

I am writing in reference to the Additional Estimates Committee meeting held on Monday 13 February 2006 to discuss the Immigration and Multicultural Affairs portfolio, in particular the discussion on Output 2.1, Settlement Services.

After a check of departmental records, I would like to provide details of two errors of fact that were made in statements to the Committee.

On page 76 of the Hansard transcript, I made reference to a meeting I chaired with principals from almost all the IHSS prime contractors. In my response to a question from Senator Hurley, I said, "In early December – actually it was earlier than that ...". Later in the transcript, on page 89, in reference to the same meeting, Ms Pope said, "... we also held a meeting in our national office on 7 December where we brought in all the IHSS service providers ...". When we provided these responses we were relying on memory rather than referring to written briefing material.

In fact, the meeting in question was held on Monday 19 December 2005. It had initially been scheduled for early December but had to be rescheduled due to the unavailability of some contractors. The incorrect date of 7 December provided by us was then repeated three times by Senator Hurley (once on page 89 and twice on page 90).

Also, on page 104 of Hansard, Ms Pope advised the Committee that "It is about 1,400 people out of the 13,000 that are unlinked that we seek to place in certain locations ...". The correct figure should be "about 4,000".

I apologise for these errors and would be grateful if you would inform Committee members of these corrections.

Yours sincerely

Peter Vardos  
First Assistant Secretary  
Citizenship, Settlement and Multicultural Affairs Division

22 February 2006

**people** our business

6 Chan Street Belconnen ACT 2617



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs**



Mr Jonathan Curtis  
Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Curtis

**CORRECTION TO SENATE ESTIMATES TRANSCRIPT**

In response to a question asked by Senator Crossin during the proceedings of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee on Monday, 13 February 2006 I incorrectly advised her that the GSL contract was to be renewed in 2008. The contract is expected to be renewed in late 2007.

Accordingly, I would be grateful if you could make the following correction to page L&C 12 of the transcript of the proceedings and advise Senator Crossin accordingly:

Senator CROSSIN—Is the report public and available to the committee?

Ms O'Connell—The report was a draft up until only last week. At the end of last week we received a finalised version of the report. It is currently undergoing internal consultations within Immigration. So it is not yet available.

Senator CROSSIN—The GSL contract is due to be renewed or retendered this year. Is that correct?

Ms O'Connell—It is 2008. — *please change to "late 2007"*

Yours sincerely

Lyn O'Connell  
First Assistant Secretary  
Detention Services Division

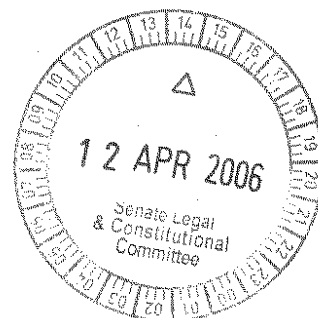
16 March 2006

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6 Chan Street Belconnen ACT 2617



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs**



Mr Jonathan Curtis  
Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Curtis

**CORRECTION TO SENATE ESTIMATES TRANSCRIPT**

In response to a question asked by Senator Nettle during the proceedings of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee on Monday, 13 February 2006 I incorrectly advised her that a decision was made last year in conjunction with Queensland Health. The decision was in fact made with South Australia Health.

Accordingly, I would be grateful if you could make the following correction to page L&C 63 of the transcript of the proceedings and advise Senator Nettle accordingly:

**Senator NETTLE**—I suppose it is hard to compare. Is there a difference between how you have been doing it to date whereby you are paying per detainee per bed and buying the unit? Is it cheaper to buy a unit than pay per detainee, or is that not a comparison you are able to make?

**Mr Casey**—I do not think it is a consideration of cost. It is really a consideration of what is the most appropriate setting for a group of people who have something in common. I think it was on that basis that a decision was made last year in conjunction with Queensland Health – (*please change to "South Australia Health"*) to establish this unit. There is also as part of that unit structure a two-bed flat—or apartment, if you could call it that—which is on the campus and also has been used for some of the residents who are not in the ward unit but have gone into this two-bedded, more self-contained flat and are looking after themselves more.

Yours sincerely

Dermot Casey  
Assistant Secretary  
Detention Health

11 April 2006

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6 Chan Street Belconnen ACT 2617