



3 June 2006

Mr Peter Hallahan  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
**Canberra ACT 2600**

Dear Mr Hallahan

I refer to the evidence provided by the Australian Human Rights Commission on 25 May 2009 to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs at the Budget Estimates hearing. I wish to submit the following corrections and clarifications in testimony.

#### **Evidence of Ms Catherine Branson QC**

I could not recall with clarity in my testimony to the Committee in answer to questions raised by Senator Brandis and Senator Barnett (reported on page 36 of the Hansard record) whether the Commission had received a written report from Commissioner Tom Calma concerning his participation on behalf of the Commission at the Durban Review Conference in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009.

I am now able to clarify that a written report concerning the Durban Review Conference was provided to the Commission at its meeting on 11 May 2009. It was one of 34 items and 27 reports included in the meeting papers. The report was provided for noting and was an 'unstarred item' on the agenda. As there was no action arising from the report, no reference is made to the report or the Durban Review Conference in the minutes of the meeting other than a note that all 'unstarred items' were noted.

I attach a copy of the report for the reference of Committee members.

I also refer to my evidence on page 15 of Hansard where I suggest in relation to a letter to the Foreign Minister, The Honourable Stephen Smith, signed by me that I took into account the views of Commissioner Calma about the last paragraph of the letter before I sent the letter. Upon investigation, I am now able to clarify that Commissioner Calma was on leave at the time that the draft letter was made available to Commissioners. It was after the letter had been sent that Commissioner Calma expressed the view that he would have preferred the last paragraph to have been omitted.

## **Evidence of Ms Susan Roberts**

It follows from my clarification to my testimony above, that the evidence of Ms Susan Roberts, Executive Director, reported on page 36 of Hansard needs to be clarified as the written report about the Durban Review Conference was on the agenda for the meeting.

Ms Roberts would also like to revise her evidence on page 39 of Hansard. Ms Roberts is recorded as saying in response to a question from Senator Barnett concerning the status of a research project undertaken by the Australian National University on creating a representative Indigenous body, that the contractual arrangement was "still on foot". Upon investigation, Ms Roberts advises that this contractual arrangement was completed on 6 June 2008.

Yours sincerely



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