

CONFIRMATION OF FAX



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Civil Justice

03/11466

6 November 2003



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

Dear Senator Payne

I am writing to correct a statement that I made at an estimates hearing of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee on Monday 3 November 2003.

In response to a question from Senator Ludwig, I said that Dr Sev Ozdowski was a member of the Australian delegation attending the second meeting of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee set up to consider proposals for a convention on the rights of people with disabilities. This is recorded at page 17 of the Hansard for that Committee hearing.

I would like to advise the Committee that it was in fact Mr Graeme Innes, Deputy Disability Discrimination Commissioner, who represented the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission on the Australian delegation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathy Leigh".

Kathy Leigh
First Assistant Secretary
Civil Justice Division

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Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

**Family Law and
Legal Assistance Division**

24 December 2003

Ms Louise Gell
Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional
Committee
Parliament House
ACT 2600

Fax: 62775794

Dear Ms Gell

Senate Estimates hearing of 3 November 2003

I am writing to amplify two responses that I provided to Senator Ludwig as part of the Department's senate estimate hearing on 3 November 2003.

Senator Ludwig asked whether the Department had appeared before the inquiry into child custody arrangements by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs. I responded that we had appeared before a public hearing of the inquiry on 15 September. In addition to that appearance, Department officials provided other briefing to members of the Committee.

Senator Ludwig also asked whether we had dealt at the public hearing with whether or not a rebuttable presumption of joint custody would impact on the level of family law litigation either positively or negatively. I answered that I recalled being referred to the South Australian government submission and questioned about the impact on litigation from a legal aid perspective. In addition, the Department took a question on notice about the possible impact of a presumption on family law litigation. A response to that question on notice has been provided to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Philippa Lynch
First Assistant Secretary

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Chief Executive Officer

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

Dear *Senator Payne*

During the appearance of the Australian Customs Service before the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee on 3 November 2003, I was asked a series of questions by Senator Mark Bishop about "how many containers are examined at each port per day, on average". I advised Senator Bishop that "the intention is 100 a day in Sydney and Melbourne, 80 in Brisbane and 60 in Fremantle" (Hansard L&C 126). I would like to correct this answer as follows –

"the average intended number of containers examined is:

- Sydney 100
- Melbourne 100
- Brisbane 60
- Fremantle 50".

In another response to a question from Senator Bishop regarding the project known as CMS04, I stated that "that project has been through the RFI stage" (Hansard L&C 133). This response should be corrected as follows –

"the project has been through the Invitation To Register Interest stage".

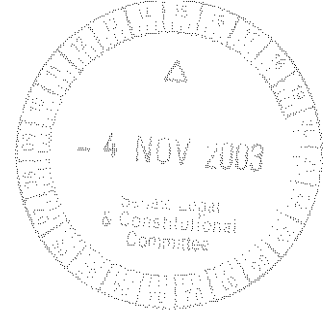
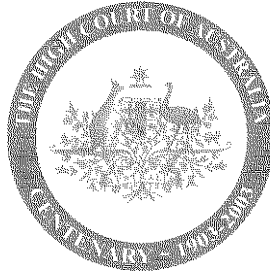
Senator Bishop asked Jenny Peachey "which firm is the lead contractor and responsible for the successful conclusion" of the integrated cargo system. Her response should be corrected from "IOCOR and KAZ" to "IOCOR, KAZ and Teradata" (Hansard L&C 114).

I provide these details to clarify the information provided to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

L B Woodward
(L B WOODWARD)

19 November 2003



Parkes Place
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Chief Executive &
Principal Registrar

3 November 2003

Ms Louise Gell
Secretary
Senate Legal & Constitutional Legislation
Committee
Room S1.61, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Gell

**2003-04 Budget Estimates (Supplementary Hearings):
Attorney-General's Portfolio**

Earlier today, in answer to a question from Senator Kirk, I informed the Committee that 16 students had attended the High Court Centenary Conference following an invitation to each of the 32 Law Schools to nominate one student who, in the opinion of the Dean, would have been the most likely to benefit from attending.

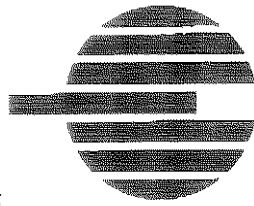
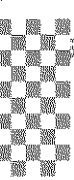
Following my return to the Court, I learnt that the number of students attending the Conference was 24, not 16.

Accordingly, could you please inform the Committee of the correct number and convey my apologies for inadvertently understating the number of students who had attended the Conference.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher M Doogan".

CHRISTOPHER M DOOGAN
Chief Executive & Principal Registrar



**Human Rights and
Equal Opportunity Commission**

Ms Louise Gell
Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Facsimile No. (02) 62775794

Dear Ms Gell

SENATE LEGAL & CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

Would you please advise the Committee that the Commission wishes to clarify two responses it made at the Budget Estimates Supplementary Hearing of 3rd November:

(a)
Senator Ludwig asked (L&C 20): "Is the Commission considering intervening in the working family test case currently before the Industrial Relations Commission?"

Commissioner Goward responded (L&C 20): "Yes, but the final decision is yet to be made. Of course we will be considering it. It would not be proper to make an announcement publicly."

Clarification. The Commission has in fact determined to seek leave of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission to intervene as a party to those proceedings and has made an application to that effect. Leave to intervene in the proceedings was granted by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission on Friday 26 September 2003. This is now a matter of public record.

Commissioner Goward was referring to the content of the Commission's submissions in those proceedings. The Commission has not yet settled an outline of the submissions and comment on the likely content would be inappropriate.

(b)
The Chair, Senator Payne asked (L&C 20): "In terms of training, you had cooperation from the state and federal police in participating in that?"

Commissioner Goward responded (L&C 20): "I would have to say more from the Federal Police. We have yet to successfully engage state police departments, despite the fact that state governments tend to be the ones responsible for the licensing and policing of prostitution more directly. That is of some disappointment."

Clarification. The Commission and Project Respect, a Victorian NGO focusing on trafficking in women and violence against women in the sex industry, were two of the organisers of a conference 'Stop the Traffic 2' on trafficking in women for the sex industry held on 23 and 24 October 2003.

Regarding Victorian state-level involvement in the *Stop the Traffic 2* conference, Project Respect invited Detective-Sergeant Ivan McKinney to address the conference. While he very much wanted to, he had a prior engagement and could not attend.

Two members of the Victorian police force attended the conference.

The Commission and Project Respect also organised a "train the trainer" course for staff of the Commission and Project Respect as well as staff of the secretariat of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and two representatives of member institutions of that Forum. This training was delivered by Paul Holmes, an international counter-trafficking expert who was the keynote speaker at the 'Stop the Traffic 2' conference on 21st October.

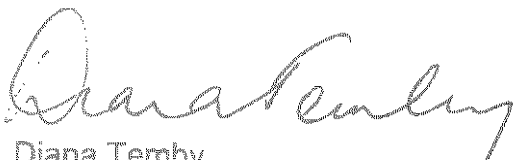
The intention was that officers of State and Federal police agencies would be invited to attend a second day of training to be held on 22nd October.

However, during preparations for the training course, it came to the organisers' attention that the Australian Federal Police College was holding a MOSC (Management of Serious Crime) Course on 22nd October that took a thematic focus on trafficking in people. Paul Holmes was invited to address that training course on trafficking issues.

Representatives of the Commission and Project Respect were able to attend and observe that training session. Participants were members of relevant federal, State and Territory police agencies. In effect, the Australian Federal Police College facilitated the Commission and Project Respect's intention of engaging State and Territory police in its training session.

The Commission and Commissioner Goward apologise for any misunderstanding. If Senator Ludwig or Senator Payne have any questions arising from this response, we will, of course, be happy to provide further clarification.

Yours sincerely



Diana Temby
Executive Director
17 November 2003