

**From:** [BLACKWOOD, Rachel](#)  
**To:** s47E(c), s47F  
**Subject:** RE: Correction Letter - Senate Estimates - Community Affairs Legislation Committee - [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 18 March 2025 3:45:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [18032025 Senate Estimates - Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Correction Letter - February 2025.docx](#)

Thanks s47E(c), s47F some edits attached as discussed – I think worth fleshing out if we can, to say when we first became aware of allegations after Jan 2024.

Rachel

**Rachel Blackwood**  
 Assistant Secretary  
 Access and Home Support Division  
 T: 02 5132 s47E(c), s47F

---

**From:** s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 March 2025 1:34 PM  
**To:** BLACKWOOD, Rachel <Rachel.BLACKWOOD@Health.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Correction Letter - Senate Estimates - Community Affairs Legislation Committee - [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hey

s42 . Might be worth a quick chat once you've digested!

I've identified [2 corrections](#) in response to the following questions:

- Was the department aware that MMA were planning to deceive Senator Rice at Whitehorse? (Page 86)
  - I've included the letter for your info.
  - I've included additional details as we discussed with Thea yesterday, s47C s47C . Keen on your thoughts.

s22

s22



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Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the  
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Happy to chat!

s47E(c),  
s47F

**From:** [BLACKWOOD, Rachel](#)  
**To:** s47E(c), s47F  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: 18032025 Senate Estimates - Correction Letter - Release of CRM - 26 February 2025.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 19 March 2025 9:16:23 AM

---

Thanks s47E(c), s47F - s42 .

Thanks

Rachel

---

**From:** s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 March 2025 5:08 PM  
**To:** BLACKWOOD, Rachel <Rachel.BLACKWOOD@Health.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au>  
**Subject:** 18032025 Senate Estimates - Correction Letter - Release of CRM - 26 February 2025.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Importance:** High

I recommend we correct the record on this too.

We received an FOI today in relation to this quote and we do need to correct the record because we are not discussing it's release with anyone.

s42

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Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

**From:** [CONNOLLY, Thea](#)  
**To:** s47E(c), s47F  
**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F; [BLACKWOOD, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Whitehorse MOW - Senator visit [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Friday, 21 March 2025 8:19:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

I don't recall that, let's discuss this am (please s47E(c), s47F)

---

**From:** s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 March 2025 6:56 AM  
**To:** CONNOLLY, Thea <Thea.Connolly@health.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au>; BLACKWOOD, Rachel  
 <Rachel.BLACKWOOD@Health.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Whitehorse MOW - Senator visit [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Thea

For the Senate estimates correction letter, I'm trying to establish a timeline of when we became aware that MMA allegedly provided a script to people who were present at the Senator Rice visit at Whitehorse on 30 Jan 2024.

I have a file note from 8 Feb that Senator Rice took a phone call from the Newcastle board straight after the visit. I can't remember how we found out about that though, did s47F also contact you to tell you she had gone straight to the former Senator?

Happy to discuss

Many thanks,

s47E(c), s47F

**Director - CHSP Service Reform**  
**Home Support Operations Branch**

Access and Home Support Division | Ageing and Aged Care Group  
 Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care  
 T: (02) 5132 s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au  
 Location: Level 7, Sirius Building  
 GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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**From:** [CONNOLLY, Thea](#)  
**To:** [BLACKWOOD, Rachel](#); s47E(c), s47F  
**Subject:** 10am | Rachel, s47E(c), s47F /Thea catch-up  
**Attachments:** [RE: Whitehorse MOW - Senator visit \[SEC=OFFICIAL\].msg](#)

---

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Join the meeting now <[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YTkwnWFiYjltYzFhYy00OWMzLTkzYzctZGM4ZjU0OGExYThj%40thread.v2?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2234a3929c-73cf-4954-abfe-147dc3517892%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%220b08447d-1ee5-4853-a10d-0575cf57b80a%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTkwnWFiYjltYzFhYy00OWMzLTkzYzctZGM4ZjU0OGExYThj%40thread.v2?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2234a3929c-73cf-4954-abfe-147dc3517892%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%220b08447d-1ee5-4853-a10d-0575cf57b80a%22%7d)>

Meeting ID: 427 529 782 918

Passcode: zQ7XY295

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Find a local number <<https://dialin.teams.microsoft.com/021e9008-ebfe-4add-b865-cf7f806c0b85?id=123898885>>

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Video ID: 138 241 238 0

More info <<https://www.webex.com/msteams?confid=1382412380&tenantkey=health-au&domain=m.webex.com>>

For organizers: Meeting options <[https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=0b08447d-1ee5-4853-a10d-0575cf57b80a&tenantId=34a3929c-73cf-4954-abfe-147dc3517892&threadId=19\\_meeting\\_YTkwnWFiYjltYzFhYy00OWMzLTkzYzctZGM4ZjU0OGExYThj@thread.v2&messageId=0&language=en-US](https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=0b08447d-1ee5-4853-a10d-0575cf57b80a&tenantId=34a3929c-73cf-4954-abfe-147dc3517892&threadId=19_meeting_YTkwnWFiYjltYzFhYy00OWMzLTkzYzctZGM4ZjU0OGExYThj@thread.v2&messageId=0&language=en-US)> | Reset dial-in PIN <<https://dialin.teams.microsoft.com/usp/pstnconferencing>>

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Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the  
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

s47E(c), s47F

**From:** s47E(c), s47F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 March 2025 2:11 PM  
**To:** BLACKWOOD, Rachel; CONNOLLY, Thea  
**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F ; PAXINOS, Danae; s47E(c), s47F  
**Subject:** RE: Hansard - corrections and QoNs [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]  
**Attachments:** 24032025 Senate Estimates - Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Clarification Letter - Senator Rice visit to Whitehorse.docx; 24032025 Senate Estimates - Clarification Letter - Release of CRM - 26 February 2025.docx

Hi Thea

Two clarification letters for your signature.

s47E(c),  
s47F

s42

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Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the  
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

**From:** [CONNOLLY, Thea](#)  
**To:** s47E(c), s47F ; [STEWART, Sonja](#)  
**Cc:** [BLACKWOOD, Rachel](#); [PURDY, Melissa](#); [PAXINOS, Danae](#); s47E(c), s47F  
**Subject:** Hansard - corrections [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 26 March 2025 3:32:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [24032025 Senate Estimates - Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Clarification Letter - Senator Rice visit to Whitehorse.docx](#)

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Signed combined clarification letter thanks s47E(c), s47F please rename and pdf before providing to our Parl/ests Liaison section for lodgement /dispatch.

Sonja, for info, I will also give a copy to the MO

Regards

Thea

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Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the  
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



Australian Government  
Department of Health and Aged Care

Apolline Kohen  
Committee Secretary  
Community Affairs and Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I am writing in relation to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee hearings of 26 February 2025. I wish to clarify evidence provided to the Committee during its examination of the Department of Health and Aged Care (page 86 of the Proof Hansard refers).

In answering a question from Senator Allman-Payne about whether the department was aware, prior to the publication of an article in the *Saturday Paper* of 8 February 2025, *'that MMA were planning to deceive my former colleague Senator Janet Rice into believing that Whitehorse Meals on Wheels was not operated by MMA'*. I said, *'No, we were not aware of the claims made in the article.'*

The department's records indicate that the department was not aware of any planned deception. However, after Senator Rice's visit the department became aware of claims that a script had been provided by MMA to the former CEO of Newcastle Meals on Wheels which included discussion points for the Senator's visit. The department did not receive a copy of this script, and is not aware of the content.

In answering another question from Senator Allman-Payne, I said, *'...We are undergoing discussions with various parties in relation to making the CRM available as soon as we can...'*

The department currently doesn't hold or have access to the CRM/Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software. As I indicated in my response, it has always been the department's intention for the software to be provided to a suitable entity which would take over the ownership and responsibility of the software, including hosting and ongoing maintenance. The department will not be in a position to discuss the release of the software with third parties until the ongoing intellectual property ownership dispute is resolved.

Yours sincerely

s47F

Thea Connolly  
First Assistant Secretary  
Access and Home Support Division  
Department of Health and Aged Care

26 March 2025



**From:** SENATE-ESTIMATES  
**To:** BLACKWOOD, Rachel; s47E(c), s47F ; SENATE-ESTIMATES; s47E(c), s47F  
**Cc:** CONNOLLY, Thea; s47E(c), s47F  
**Subject:** RE: Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 27 March 2025 2:18:38 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png

---

Hi Rachel,

Thank you for your email.

We are in the process of packaging edits and corrections to the Hansard to provide a full portfolio response to the Committee.

We will touch base and let you know once this has occurred.

Thanks,

s47E(c), s47F

Parliamentary Coordination

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Branch | People, Communication and Parliamentary Division  
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: 02 5132 s47E(c), s47F | MPS Hotline: 02 6289 s47E(c), s47F | E: s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au | Yaradhang Building, Level 6

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---

**From:** BLACKWOOD, Rachel

**Sent:** Thursday, 27 March 2025 1:17 PM

**To:** s47E(c), s47F ; SENATE-ESTIMATES ; s47E(c), s47F

**Cc:** CONNOLLY, Thea ; s47E(c), s47F

**Subject:** RE: Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi all, can you please confirm whether this letter has gone to the committee yet?

Thanks

Rachel

**Rachel Blackwood**

Assistant Secretary

Access and Home Support Division

T: 02 5132 s47E(c), s47F

**From:** s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 March 2025 3:51 PM

**To:** SENATE-ESTIMATES <SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au>

**Cc:** CONNOLLY, Thea <Thea.Connolly@health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F

s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>; BLACKWOOD, Rachel

<Rachel.BLACKWOOD@Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au>

**Subject:** Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

Please see the attached clarification letter to be tabled.

Let me know if there are any issues.

Many thanks,

s47E(c), s47F

**Director - CHSP Service Reform**

**Home Support Operations Branch**

Access and Home Support Division | Ageing and Aged Care Group

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: (02) 5132 s47E(c), s47F [REDACTED] [@health.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.gov.au)

Location: Level 7, Sirius Building

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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**From:** s47E(c), s47F  
**To:** [SENATE-ESTIMATES](#); [Parliamentary Committees](#)  
**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F [BLACKWOOD, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 31 March 2025 4:04:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Thanks team!

We have an FOI that directly relates to our clarification letter. Can you confirm if we can still publish corrections during caretaker?

---

**From:** SENATE-ESTIMATES

**Sent:** Friday, 28 March 2025 11:55 AM

**To:** Parliamentary Committees ; SENATE-ESTIMATES ; s47E(c), s47F

**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F

**Subject:** RE: Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47E(c), s47F

Not yet – we sent an email yesterday afternoon. We are in the process of packaging all Hansard edits and correction letters for the portfolio.

We will touch base with you s47E(c), s47F once this occurs.

Thanks,

s47E(c), s47F

Parliamentary Coordination

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Branch | People, Communication and Parliamentary Division

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: 02 5132 | MPS Hotline: 02 6289 s47E(c), s47F | E: s47E(c), s47F [@health.gov.au](mailto:@health.gov.au) | Yaradhang Building, Level 6

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---

**From:** Parliamentary Committees <[Parliamentary.Committees@health.gov.au](mailto:Parliamentary.Committees@health.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 28 March 2025 11:38 AM

**To:** SENATE-ESTIMATES <[SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au](mailto:SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F [@health.gov.au](mailto:@health.gov.au)

**Subject:** FW: Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello team s47E(c), s47F has asked if we can confirm the clarification letter from Thea Connolly was sent to the secretariat.

I had a search in our tabling inbox to see if there was any onforwarding by the PC team, but thought someone in your space might have forwarded noting the email was sent to the Estimates inbox.

Can you advise if this has been actioned.

Thank you heaps!

s47E(c), s47F

**From:** s47E(c), s47F [@health.gov.au](mailto:@health.gov.au)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 March 2025 3:51 PM

**To:** SENATE-ESTIMATES <[SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au](mailto:SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au)>

**Cc:** CONNOLLY, Thea <[Thea.Connolly@health.gov.au](mailto:Thea.Connolly@health.gov.au)>; s47E(c), s47F

s47E(c), s47F [@Health.gov.au](mailto:@Health.gov.au); BLACKWOOD, Rachel

<Rachel.BLACKWOOD@Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F [redacted]@health.gov.au>

**Subject:** Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

Please see the attached clarification letter to be tabled.

Let me know if there are any issues.

Many thanks,

s47E(c), s47F [redacted]

**Director - CHSP Service Reform  
Home Support Operations Branch**

---

Access and Home Support Division | Ageing and Aged Care Group  
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care  
T: (02) 5132 s47E(c), s47F [redacted]@health.gov.au

Location: Level 7, Sirius Building

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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**From:** [SENATE-ESTIMATES](#)  
**To:** s47E(c), s47F  
**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F ; [BLACKWOOD, Rachel](#); [SENATE-ESTIMATES](#); [Parliamentary Committees](#); s47E(c), s47F  
**Subject:** RE: Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 1 April 2025 9:08:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hey s47E(c),  
s47F

We have been informed by the tabling office that all active business at the time prorogation remains current and can still be sent through for publication.

The Portfolio's Hansard edits and corrections from the February hearings will be sent through to the Committee Secretariat by the end of this week.

We will let you know once it has been published.

Thank you

s47E(c), s47F

Assistant Director

Parliamentary Coordination

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Branch | People, Communication & Parliamentary Division  
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

s47E(c), s47F [@health.gov.au](#) | TEAMS: 02 5132 s47E(c), s47F | ACT: Yaradhang Building, level 6 | GPO Box 9848, Canberra  
 ACT 2601, Australia

---

**From:** s47E(c), s47F

**Sent:** Monday, 31 March 2025 4:04 PM

**To:** SENATE-ESTIMATES ; Parliamentary Committees

**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F ; BLACKWOOD, Rachel

**Subject:** RE: Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks team!

We have an FOI that directly relates to our clarification letter. Can you confirm if we can still publish corrections during caretaker?

**From:** SENATE-ESTIMATES <[SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au](mailto:SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 28 March 2025 11:55 AM

**To:** Parliamentary Committees <[Parliamentary.Committees@health.gov.au](mailto:Parliamentary.Committees@health.gov.au)>; SENATE-ESTIMATES <[SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au](mailto:SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au)>; s47E(c), s47F

s47E(c), s47F [@health.gov.au](#)>

**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F [@Health.gov.au](#)>

**Subject:** RE: Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47E(c)

s47F

Not yet – we sent an email yesterday afternoon. We are in the process of packaging all Hansard edits and correction letters for the portfolio.

We will touch base with you s47E(c), s47F once this occurs.

Thanks,

s47E(c), s47F

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 Level 6

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---

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**Sent:** Friday, 28 March 2025 11:38 AM

**To:** SENATE-ESTIMATES <[SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au](mailto:SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>

**Subject:** FW: Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello team s47E(c), s47F has asked if we can confirm the clarification letter from Thea Connolly was sent to the secretariat.

I had a search in our tabling inbox to see if there was any onforwarding by the PC team, but thought someone in your space might have forwarded noting the email was sent to the Estimates inbox.

Can you advise if this has been actioned.

Thank you heaps!

s47E(c),  
s47F

---

**From:** s47E(c), s47F <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 March 2025 3:51 PM

**To:** SENATE-ESTIMATES <[SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au](mailto:SENATE-ESTIMATES@health.gov.au)>

**Cc:** CONNOLLY, Thea <[Thea.Connolly@health.gov.au](mailto:Thea.Connolly@health.gov.au)>; s47E(c), s47F <[REDACTED]@Health.gov.au>; BLACKWOOD, Rachel <[Rachel.BLACKWOOD@Health.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.BLACKWOOD@Health.gov.au)>; s47E(c), s47F <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>

**Subject:** Feb 2025 - Hansard clarifications - for tabling [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

Please see the attached clarification letter to be tabled.

Let me know if there are any issues.

Many thanks,

s47E(c), s47F

**Director - CHSP Service Reform  
Home Support Operations Branch**

---

Access and Home Support Division | Ageing and Aged Care Group  
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care  
T: (02) 5132 s47E(c), s47F <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>

Location: Level 7, Sirius Building

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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**From:** [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**To:** [SENATE-ESTIMATES; Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F  
**Subject:** RE: Hansard Corrections and letters - Additional Estimates February 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 10 April 2025 10:25:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.png](#)

**REMINDER:** Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning s47E(c), s47F

Thank you for your email.

Confirming that the attached letters of correction has been published on our website, with the signatures redacted, under [additional information](#). We have also forwarded DoHAC's transcript corrections to our Hansard colleagues for processing.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

s47F | Research Officer

**Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs | Department of the Senate**

Phone s47F

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

[www.aph.gov.au/senate](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate)

**From:** SENATE-ESTIMATES

**Sent:** Thursday, 10 April 2025 9:11 AM

**To:** Community Affairs, Committee (SEN)

**Cc:** SENATE-ESTIMATES; s47E(c), s47F

**Subject:** Hansard Corrections and letters - Additional Estimates February 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning,

We have reviewed the Hansard from the February Additional Estimates hearing and have marked up some edits in the attached document. Please also find three correction letters for publication attached. Please note we are also waiting on an additional correction letter and will send through when received.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

s47E(c), s47F

Parliamentary Coordination

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Branch | People, Communication and Parliamentary Division

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: 02 5132 s47E(c), s47F | MPS Hotline: 02 6289 s47E(c), s47F | E: s47E(c), s47F [@health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@health.gov.au) | Yaradhang Building, Level 6

**Please note I do not work Friday.**

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Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



s47E(c), s47F

28/03 2:05 pm

s47E(c),  
s47FHey s47E(c),  
s47F quick one, will corrections get tabled during caretaker?

hello! we are still working that out but i assume so as the hearing occurred outside of caretaker

ill confirm and get back to you

s47E(c), s47F

28/03 2:06 pm

s47E(c),  
s47F

thanks!!

Wednesday, 2 April

2/04 2:59 pm

sorry - i realised i never got back to you

corrections will still be tabled during caretaker - so the letter you provided will go in the full portfolio response 😊

s47E(c), s47F

2/04 3:00 pm

s47E(c),  
s47FAll good, i got an email back from s47E(c),  
s47F

thanks for following up!



Thursday, 10 April

10/04 10:52 am

just closing the loop - correction letter has been published 😊

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Senate\\_estimates/ca/2024-25\\_Additional\\_estimates/Health\\_and\\_Aged\\_Care](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Senate_estimates/ca/2024-25_Additional_estimates/Health_and_Aged_Care)

s47E(c), s47F

10/04 10:53 am

s47E(c),  
s47F

woo hoo thank you!

