



The Honourable David Elliott MP

Minister for Counter Terrorism
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Veterans Affairs

29 September 2017

Ms Sharon Ohnesorge
Budget Estimates Secretariat
Upper House Committees
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Ohnesorge

I write to clarify evidence given on 5 September 2017 during the 2017/18 Budget Estimates inquiry for the portfolio of Corrections by the Commissioner of Corrective Services, Mr Peter Severin, and myself.

Having reviewed the uncorrected transcript, four errors were detected in the evidence given by Commissioner Severin and myself:

- **Page 14:** In response to a question regarding when the private training provider would commence language, literacy and numeracy training in all NSW correctional centres, the Commissioner advised – *“It will be this month”*.

The correct response should have been – *“Language, literacy and numeracy, as well as basic computer skills will be provided this month, through BSI Learning, in 22 of the 25 correctional centres that require these training programs. The existing agreement with TAFE will be utilised to address any gaps, as required”*.

- **Page 21:** In my statement in regard to a report published by the Auditor General’s Report into *Therapeutic Programs in Prisons*. I mistakenly stated *“That report was published before we announced our \$237 million reoffending program”*.

The correct response should have been *“That report did not adequately take into account our \$237 million reoffending program”*.

- **Page 22:** During a similar line of questioning I stated *“The Auditor-General’s report was written before this \$237 million was announced, Mr Shoebridge”*.

The correct response should have been *“The Auditor’s General report did not adequately take into account the \$237 million investment in reducing reoffending”*.

- **Page 19:** In my response to a question regarding the staff in my office who specialise in counter terrorism, I answered: *“I have a policy adviser who has had experience in counterterrorism. My policy adviser has served in Afghanistan under the command of the Australian armed forces in the Middle East, and also as a policy adviser on Middle Eastern service. She has received the Overseas Service Medal for her activities. I have another policy adviser who has worked for another combat agency in emergency services. I have a parliamentary liaison officer who is doing a masters degree in counterterrorism. Obviously we have the deputy secretary of the department. She may want to speak further on the expertise in her office.”*

The correct response should have been *“My policy adviser served in the Middle East as the policy adviser to the Commander of the Australian Armed Forces in the Middle East and received the*

Operational Service Medal (Civilian) with Clasp for her service in connection with the Australian Defence Force contribution to the International Coalition Against Terrorism. I have another policy adviser who has worked in emergency management and volunteers for another combat agency, the State Emergency Service. I have a parliamentary liaison officer who is doing a masters degree in counterterrorism. Obviously we have the deputy secretary of the department. She may want to speak further on the expertise in her office."

I request this information be noted for correction in the final transcript.

Yours sincerely

David Elliott MP
MINISTER FOR COUNTER TERRORISM
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONS
MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS