

MARION LE, AM  
Vice – President,  
GRANDPARENT & KINSHIP CARERS (ACT) Inc  
PO Box 6265, Conder ACT 2906  
[marionle@ozemail.com.au](mailto:marionle@ozemail.com.au)

Ms Meredith Hunter, Chair  
Select Committee on Estimates 2010 – 2011  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
Canberra.  
via Dr Sandra Lilburn  
Manager Committees  
Secretary, Select Committee on Estimates 2010-11  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
[sandra.lilburn@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:sandra.lilburn@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Ms Hunter

I am writing to correct the record in relation to the appearance of myself and Mrs Jean Smyth before the Committee on Thursday 13 May, 2010

During the course of my evidence I made an assertion, supported by Mrs Smyth, that I now know to be incorrect and unfair to the Department and the Departmental officers concerned.

I wish to correct the record.

The relevant portion from the Hansard (pp4 - 5) is extracted below:

***MR SMYTH:** How did you become aware that the procurement documents had been posted on the web?*

***Mrs Le:** That is a very interesting question, Brendan; thank you for it. I attended a meeting two weeks ago, along with Christine as the president, with Megan and with Frank Duggan from the department. We were told that the procurement documents would be released before the end of May. They had a discussion with us about whether or not we would be eligible to apply for that funding. I said: "We might miss it. Will you let us know when they're actually going to be released?" As far as I am aware—you are the secretary; have you received anything?*

***Mrs Smyth:** No.*

***Mrs Le:** I read the Canberra Times every Saturday, from cover to cover, to see what everyone is doing, and I saw documentation that said, "Okay, go to the website." When I got to the website—that was a week ago—it said, "Actually, the documents won't be available until the 8th," which was the next weekend. I went to the website. The documentation still was not ready, and I downloaded it this morning. I think it was posted on the 11th. But we did not receive any formal notification, even though we are the only*

*association officially representing grandparent and kinship care, as far as I am aware, at the moment. That promise of us being officially notified so that we would know did not happen, and I had to find it in the Canberra Times.*

Last night, our President, Mrs Christine Carey, advised our Committee members by email that notification of the tender had in fact been sent to her by email from the Department on 5 May, 2010 but that she had not forwarded it to us. She was absent from Canberra for some days and we were all unaware that the notification had been received.

I wish to correct the record and apologise to the Department, in particular to Ms Megan Mitchell and Mr Frank Duggan, for any distress this misinformation may have caused them. They had promised that we would be notified by the Department and in fact we were notified along with other interested parties.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further clarification.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely

MARION LE, AM  
May 18, 2010