



**SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**

STATEMENT FROM THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

On Monday afternoon my office was advised by the Attorney-General's Department that it appeared that their advice that the letter from Man Haron Monis of 7 October 2014 and the Department's reply had been provided to the Thawley-Comley review, was wrong.

I then had a meeting with the Secretary of my Department Mr Moraitis, and asked him to conduct an urgent inquiry within the Department to establish the facts.

My office received Mr Moraitis' report early this afternoon, which confirmed that the Monis letter and the Department's reply had not been provided, contrary to the earlier Departmental advice.

I immediately wrote to the Secretary of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee correcting my evidence of 28 May, which had been based on the Department's earlier advice. That letter, a copy of which is attached, was delivered by hand at approximately 3:15pm.

The Foreign Minister was advised shortly before Question Time and she made a statement in the House of Representatives correcting her answer on the issue last week.

I have also received a copy of today's letter to the Prime Minister from Mr Michael Thawley, which was tabled in the House of Representatives by Ms Bishop. That letter states that the Monis letter "would have made no difference to the findings in the review."

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