

From: [Kirstin McLiesh](#)
To: [Mark Tapley](#)
Subject: FW: Office of Senator Bragg: letter regarding Mr Epstein
Date: Wednesday, 10 November 2021 4:08:22 PM
Attachments: [20210804 Letter to ABC.pdf](#)

Hi Mark,
Hope you're well.
Do you know if a response was sent to this correspondence? And could you please pass on a response if you have it?
The reviewers have asked about it.
Thanks,
Kirstin

From: Mark Tapley <Tapley.Mark@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 September 2021 3:12 PM
To: Kirstin McLiesh <McLiesh.Kirstin@abc.net.au>
Subject: Office of Senator Bragg: letter regarding Mr Epstein
Just FYI. As you said this one is not one for A&CA



Senator Andrew Bragg
Liberal Senator for New South Wales

Mr David Anderson
Managing Director
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ABC Ultimo Centre
700 Harris Street
Ultimo NSW 2007

By Email: managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au

Dear Mr Anderson

I write regarding ABC's coverage of the landmark economic support programme JobKeeper.

On 3 August 2021 at 8.09pm, ABC Melbourne radio presenter Rafael Epstein made the following statement on Twitter:

The PBO says \$12 billion dollars was given to companies last year in JobKeeper money when they were not eligible for it. That is more than the govt (sic) spent on vaccines last year.

Mr Epstein's characterisation of eligibility is completely inaccurate. The first phase of JobKeeper assessed by the Parliamentary Budget Office was based on realistic and robust assumptions set by the Australian Tax Office on expected turnover. Not actual turnover.

These businesses were eligible for emergency economic support in a pandemic and subsequently had better than expected turnover. In large part, this was thanks to the success of the JobKeeper programme. It is incorrect to say that \$12 billion went to ineligible businesses.

Editorial Standard 2.1 requires the ABC to 'make reasonable efforts to ensure that material facts are accurate and presented in context' and Editorial Standard 2.2 prohibits the ABC from presenting information 'in a way that will materially mislead the audience'.



Senator Andrew Bragg
Liberal Senator for New South Wales

Mr Epstein's statement is a breach of your editorial standards, and should be publicly retracted.

I appreciate your timely reply to the above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of the letters 'AB' in a stylized, cursive script.

Senator Andrew Bragg
Liberal Senator for New South Wales