

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates February 2017

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 68

Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Page 62, 28/02/2017

Topic: Post office boxes – revenue for Aust Post

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Okay. How much money does Australia Post receive from consumers for the rental of the post office boxes?

Mr Fahour: As I am sure you are aware, 80 per cent of the Australia Post network is actually operated by the small business owners—post office operators—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And they do a good job.

Mr Fahour: And they do a terrific job, and most of the revenue goes to all of them. Therefore Australia Post, especially those private boxes, is one of the sources of really important revenue and income to those independent small-business owners. I do not have all of the information of what each one of them make in their private business. What I can get for you which has been part of the Senate estimates committee review that we have done over the last few years is the payment stream that we are paying for these private boxes and the return on those. But the vast majority of that income goes into their pockets directly to support their small business. That is why we work really hard to protect this business because, in effect, if this is taken away from these licensed post offices owners or opened up and they cannot get remunerated the way they are being remunerated, you are going to put into jeopardy the viability of hundreds of post offices around this country, particularly in regional—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I am not suggesting that. No-one is suggesting that.

Mr Fahour: But that is what our competitors want to do.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What I am asking is: how much does the consumer rental of these boxes raise for Australia Post?

Mr Fahour: I am happy to take that on notice.

Answer:

The revenue Australia Post received from consumers for the Post Office Box service was approximately \$106 million for the period 1 March 2016 to 28 February 2017.