

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 82

Program No. Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Page 88, 27/5/2015

Topic: Franchisee Mediation

Senator Ruston, Anne asked:

CHAIR: Just back on our franchisee mediation, do you have a time frame in which you are seeking for it to be concluded?

Ms Corbett: We are due to report back. Our first independent mediation was held on 8 April. At that session there was the agreed process and the methodology that would be used. Individual conversations have now been held with all 27 franchisees and we are to report back to the mediator on 9 June.

CHAIR: Are you in a position to advise of the expense to Australia Post so far by this process? Do you know how much we have spent on legal fees for Australia Post internally and externally in assisting the franchisees in their action?

Mr Fahour: I am happy to provide that data in a question on notice.

CHAIR: Thankyou

Answer:

Australia Post incurred the following legal expenses in conjunction with the mediation process:

- Mr Kimber, mediator (to 15 April 2015): \$26,000 (including GST)
- K&L Gates, franchisee legal costs (to 10 June 2015): \$101,000 (including GST)
- Norton Rose Fulbright, Australia Post's legal costs (to 29 April 2015): \$96,000 (including GST)
- Internal legal and management costs: these details are not captured on any central database. As such, Australia Post is not in a position to provide the information requested.