

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 129

Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Page 130, 20/10/2015

Topic: Australia Post Transaction Payments – LPO Income Loss

Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:

Senator XENOPHON: The information I have is that the LPOs that previously had the agencies, are now looking at doing the same level of work but receiving a fraction of the income under the Australia Post transaction payments. Is that your understanding? I am happy for you to take that on notice, but it is a live concern.

Mr Fahour: I would like to take it on notice, but I do want to say one thing that is very clear: Australia Post are desperate in these regional and rural communities to win service delivery opportunities to keep our post offices open—getting government service delivery but also, very importantly, major corporates like banks who may not be able to have a store anymore. This is the lifeblood of Australia Post. We provide 700 organisations with an opportunity to offer their services through a post office. In regional and rural communities, if we cannot get that, those post offices are in deep trouble. So winning the Westpac contract when they made their corporate decision was a wonderful opportunity. We are very grateful to be given that.

Answer:

Australia Post understands that a small number of licensees held separate private agreements with a financial institution. We are not party to these agreements and are unaware of the payment/service arrangements offered between the signatories. As such we are unable to comment on any differences in payments.