

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Postal Corporation**

**Question No: 90**

**Australia Post**

**Hansard Ref: Page 51, 18/10/2016**

**Topic: LPOs travel reimbursement**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** I said I will wait with bated breath. I have one more question on LPOs and then I want to move to a couple of quick questions on another issue. I understand that previously if licensees were required to travel for a meeting—so these are little LPOs out in a small post office perhaps with not too many employees or hardly any, if any—the costs of employing a casual for that time period was borne by Australia Post. I have been advised that this has been changed unilaterally with no consultation. Can you advise if this is accurate and explain why?

**Mr Fahour:** I will have Ms Corbett do that. One of the things that we did do—and you may remember because that was part of the discussions that we had over the last couple of years—is we have this thing called the representational allowance which we pay to our licensees so that when they go and represent the brand somewhere they have got a payment for that so they can use it. That has increased, but I will have Ms Corbett just give a bit more detail.

**Ms Corbett:** I am not aware of any specific change to any of our policies but I am very happy to take that on notice. I think when we have meetings, if we call a meeting, we have made the offer in the past to licensees to attend to cover their actual travel expenses but I am very happy to take the details on notice if there has been any change to that policy.

**Answer:**

As a general rule, under the LPO Agreement licensees are not required to attend any Australia Post hosted meetings. However, from time to time, licensees are invited to participate in business user workshops and user acceptance testing. On these occasions, Australia Post will arrange for all reasonable expenses incurred to be reimbursed to the licensee.

For those licensees who volunteer to participate in the Australia Post Licensee Advisory Council (APLAC) as state and national council members, licensees are able to be reimbursed for travel costs, meals and accommodation, and relief staff costs in some cases.