

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/044) - Mr. Burnside letter campaign - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA 5) asked:

Senator BILYK: In regard to the letter-writing campaign that Mr Burnside organised, are you able to tell me how many letters were sent to transferees in Nauru? Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me how many letters were unable to be delivered because they were incorrectly addressed?

Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me for what reasons?

Senator BILYK: Have you got any sort of breakdown though?

Ms Briscoe: No, I do not have that.

Mr Pezzullo: We could take the breakdown on notice. Perhaps Ms Briscoe might speak to some of the factors and then, to put some numbers against those factors, we would probably want to take that on notice.

Senator BILYK: You might need to take this on notice too. How many were unable to be delivered to the intended recipients because they were no longer at the detention centre?

Ms Briscoe: Yes, certainly I will get a break down.

Senator BILYK: On notice?

Ms Briscoe: On notice.

Answer:

Where Mr Burnside failed to provide sender details it is difficult to differentiate between letters sent by Mr Burnside and other senders as:

- mail does not always contain sender details and as such sender details are not recorded on the property, mail and parcel register;
- mail addressed to individual transferees is delivered unopened to transferees; or
- not all letters received identified that they were sent from Mr Burnside himself as Mr Burnside also sent letters written by other members of the Australian community.

The letters that could be identified as having been sent to transferees at the Nauru Regional Processing Centre (RPC) from Mr Burnside during the period 1 April 2014 to 6 January 2015, is estimated to be 1600.

Approximately 1525 letters were unable to be delivered to the intended recipient as:

- the intended recipient no longer resides at the RPC;
- the mail was incorrectly addressed or were addressed to recipients that were unable to be identified;

- the individual to whom the letter was addressed chose not to collect the letter, following three appointment slips; or
- the mail was not addressed to a specific individual.