

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/046) - Mr. Burnside letter campaign - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA 6) asked:

Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me how many letters were actually delivered to the intended recipients?

Ms Briscoe: No; I will take that on notice.

Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me how many reply letters were sent back by the recipients using the stamped self-addressed envelopes provided?

Ms Briscoe: I do not believe any, because the return envelopes had Australian stamps on them, so they would not have been able to be posted from PNG or Nauru. I do not believe any, but I will check that. I may also—

Senator BILYK: Okay. Do you understand Mr Burnside did manage to source some stamps from Nauru and that some of the reply envelopes had those stamps on? If you could take that on notice. Are you able to tell me how many were sent back using Nauru stamps obtained from the detention-service provider?

Ms Briscoe: No, I am not aware of that. I can take that on notice and bring that back with the other information.

Answer:

A total of 76 letters identified as being sent by Mr Burnside are confirmed to have been delivered to transferees.

Transfield Services do not record outgoing mail and as such would not track the correspondence being sent from the regional processing centres (RPCs).

Mail addressed to individual transferees is not opened by Transfield Services and remains sealed when delivered to the recipient. Accordingly, the Department is unable to advise if the stamp self-addressed envelopes had Australian or Nauruan stamps affixed.

The Nauruan Postal Service is responsible for the management of outgoing mail from Nauru.