

From: Behrens, Jo (Sen E. Abetz) [mailto:Jo.Behrens@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 March 2010 7:52 PM
To: matt_watts@bigpond.com
Subject: Senator Abetz Reply

*Dictated by Senator Abetz & sent in his absence.

Dear Mr Watts

Thank you for your email of 3 February 2010.

I was able to raise the concern's of the Australian Privacy Foundation during Estimates with Mr McCloskey from Australia Post and the policy of Australia Post that seems to mean that not for profit community organisations are charged for some services at the full commercial corporate rate.

Mr McCloskey was not aware of the matter nor did he seem to know about the specific rates. He has taken the question on notice and hopefully by raising this at Estimates Australia Post will see that the issue is resolved sooner than otherwise.

I have attached the Hansard below for your information.

Monday, 8 February 2010 Senate ECA 10 & 11

ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS

Senator ABETZ-.....Can I ask you about the Australian Privacy Foundation; I understand you may have had a complaint from them about a mail redirection order for 12 months? They were initially advised that it would cost \$68 and now it is \$408. Their assertion is that it seems that Australia Post does not cater for community not-for-profit organisations. As I understand it, an individual who seeks to redirect their mail pays \$68; is that right?

Mr McCloskey-For a 12 months period that sounds about right, Senator.

Senator ABETZ-Whereas for a business it is \$408?

Mr McCloskey-There is a different rate for businesses and I am sure that would be correct.

Senator ABETZ-If those figures are correct-and I am just quoting from the Australian Privacy Foundation's email to me-then in those circumstances has Australia Post considered a varying rate for not-for-profit organisations, especially one that I am told does not have much mail for Australia Post to attend to?

Mr McCloskey-Senator, I am not familiar with the particular complaint, which I would need to take on notice.

Senator ABETZ-Can you take it on notice and just consider whether Australia Post might view a differential charge for not-for-profit organisations?

Mr McCloskey-I will take it on notice, Senator.

Yours sincerely

Eric Abetz
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate
Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Liberal Senator for Tasmania