

**SUBMISSION – SENATE INVESTIGATION OF CHRISTINE HOLGATE – AUSTRALIA POST ENQUIRY**

I would like to voice my feelings and experiences regarding the treatment of Christine Holgate – former CEO of Australia Post.

The issue of gifting watches to four managers in recognition of their exceptional efforts in securing an arrangement with the bank's worth in excess of 200 million dollars to the organisation has been used in my opinion as an agenda to settle some personal score.

The amount of the gifts pales into insignificance compared with the obvious rorting that went on in the "boys club" under the leadership of the previous CEO.

From where I sit, a licensee with Australia Post for fourteen years, while Christine Holgate was CEO, we observed a new and progressive approach to the business with recognition and acknowledgement of the countless hours of dedicated effort put in by the thousands of licensees and postal agents across the country. This came after a period of stagnation and retrograde steps that saw the organisation starting to lose its position of trust with the Australian Public.

The end of the previous CEO's tenure was nothing short of obscene, with the ridiculous salary reinforced with over-the-top termination bonus's that did nothing but infuriate the average customer of the organisation.

The responsibility of this whole debacle must be laid firmly at the feet of the Board of Australia Post.

I was astounded by the response of the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison in Parliament regarding the "watches affair", a response that could only have been arrived at through being given false or misleading information.

To lose the services of someone as capable as Christine Holgate who already in her very short tenure was starting to give the organisation a new and positive direction is a shameful and damaging decision.

I consider that it is time that some scrutiny be applied to the board of Australia Post who have presided over two horrendous decisions, one the appointment of the Previous CEO with a ludicrous salary and bonus package and two, bring about the resignation of Christine Holgate under dubious and agenda driven circumstances.

For the sake of the future of the organisation it is time to recognise the common denominator.

Yours sincerely

Ross Roberts