

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australia Post**

**Question No: 151**

**Program No. Australia Post**

**Hansard Ref: Pg 95/96 (25/2/2014)**

**Topic: Digital MailBox**

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

On the basis of the history of the development of the mail service, can you see any reason why the government should consider introducing a secure permanent inbox in any way other than the adoption of the digital mailbox that it already owns?

**Mr Fahour:** I think that is a matter for the minister.

**Senator Urquhart:** Do you want to comment on that, Minister?

**Senator Fifield:** I will take that on notice. I am certainly aware of the work that the Department of Human Services is undertaking in relation to introducing the basic mailbox functionality for the myGov digital service from 1 March, and I am also aware of the fact that Australians will be able to use this to get digital mail from programs from that date. The Government has convened an inter-departmental committee of senior officials from relevant agencies to advise on a long-term approach to Whole-of-Government digital mail services in line with the Government's election commitment. I hope that is of assistance.

**Senator Urquhart:** You will take that on notice and provide it?

**Senator Fifield:** Yes.

**Answer:**

An Inter-departmental Committee (IDC) chaired by the Department of Finance has been tasked with providing the Commonwealth Government with options for providing individuals and entities with a secure and permanent point of contact for digital communications with Government. The IDC is currently considering possible options.