

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australia Post**

**Question No: 27**

**Australia Post**

**Hansard Ref: Page 40-41, 09/02/2016**

**Topic: Payment Proposal Discussions**

**Senator Ludlam, Scott asked:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** It appears that it might have brought back out of the bottom drawer. Can you just check for us? You have been pretty clear and unambiguous that you have not been engaged in any discussions with other arms of government in the last six or eight months, you think.

**Mr Fahour:** On the payment proposal?

**Senator LUDLAM:** Yes

...

**Senator LUDLAM:** It might do, if one of your portfolio agencies is tendering for all of this work.

**Senator Fifield:** But I think Mr Fahour has said that these are conversations that date back some time. In terms of what government may or may not do in relation to payment schemes in the Health or Social Services portfolios is a matter for the Health or Social Services portfolios. If there is a particular type of architecture or alternative mechanism of payment that they are looking at—I am not aware of any, but I would not necessarily be aware because that is not my portfolio area—those questions need to go to them. Mr Fahour can only really answer questions to the extent that Australia Post has had an interest in providing additional services through its outlets.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Can you double check for us, Mr Fahour, whether anybody within your organisation has been engaged in conversations more recently than the last six months or so.

**Mr Fahour:** We will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Australia Post currently works with a number of government organisations on a range of initiatives, including payment services. As such, our sales representatives are in regular contact with various departments as part of our focus on improving how Australian citizens access and utilise government services.