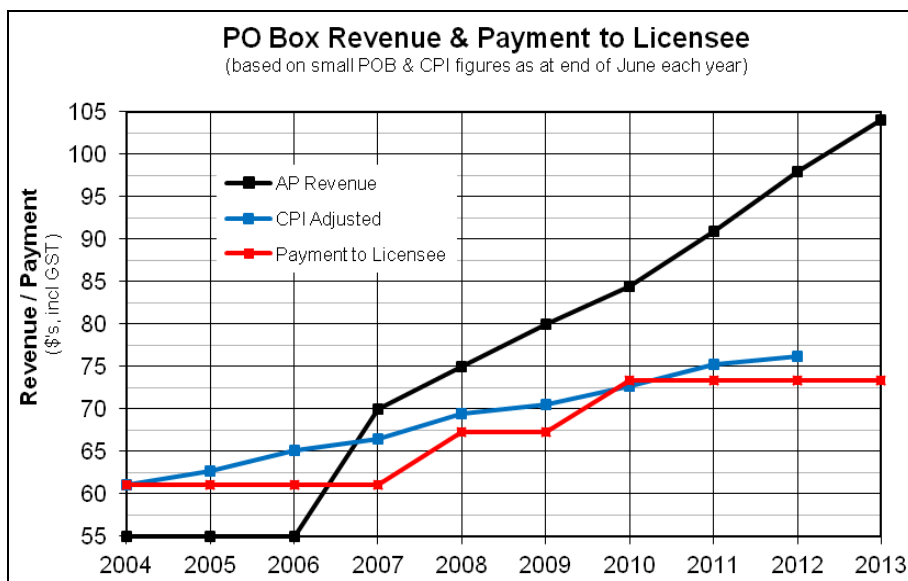


PO Box rental charges skyrocket.....

FACT: After more than 10 years of discussions, nothing much has changed except POB rental charges skyrocketing to the benefit of Australia Post and payments to Licensees being significantly reduced !

The graph below shows payments to Licensees:-

- In 2004 were approximately 110% the rental charge
- In 2013 are now only approximately 70% the rental charge
- Have not kept pace with the Consumer Price Index (CPI)



There is a famous saying:-

“TELL ME AND I WILL FORGET, SHOW ME AND I MAY REMEMBER,
INVOLVE ME AND I WILL UNDERSTAND”
(Confucius)

How did we get to this point? How did this happen to us?

In February 2002, Australia Post advised:-

“Consultation and discussions on proposed changes to the Post Office Box service fee have been underway with POAAL for a number of years. Agreement on the form of the final payment package or timing has not yet been reached.”

(Source: Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts Legislation Committee, ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Australia Post, Additional Estimates Hearings 18 February 2002)

Recently. 12-February-2013, Australia Post was asked a question by a Senator McKenzie (see below) regarding the huge leap in PO Box rental charges and relatively low payments to Licensees. Australia Post’s answer did not even make mention of the problem with the payment structure for POB’s despite Australia Post being aware for more than 10 years that there IS a problem and it needed to be addressed.

Question (Senator McKenzie): *“Another issue that was raised was the increase in PO box rentals—to 132 per cent since 1993, whereas licensees have only seen a 33 per cent increase over the same time.”*

Answer (AP, Christine Corbett): *“I think the 33 per cent figure that you are quoting actually relates to increases in the basic postage rate, not necessarily to licensed post offices overall. The payment figure and how LPO payments are derived are that some come from a commission base and some are directly linked to the basic postage rate increases. The figure you quoted is the increase in the basic postage rates since 1992 and the flow on effect of that.”*

(Source:- p62, COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, Proof Committee Hansard, **SENATE**, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE, **Estimates** (Public), TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2013, CANBERRA)

Australia Post has publicly stated:-

“...we now have 1½ million post office box customers around the country.....” (Australia Post, Christine Corbett)

(Source: p41, COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, Official Committee Hansard, SENATE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE, Estimates, THURSDAY, 24 MAY 2012, CANBERRA)

Perhaps an honest answer to the question asked by Senator McKenzie would be:-

Australia Post makes millions with each dollar increase in the PO Box rental charge charged to customers and Licensees receive no direct benefit from such increases.

Licensees are however receiving something, a plethora of complaints from customers saying the increase in charges is outrageous !

Why not contact Senator (Bridget) McKenzie direct and make her aware of the correct answer to her question and the problems being experienced by Licensees including POB payments. Her contact details are as follows:-

Electorate Office (Principal Office)

279 Hargreaves Street
Bendigo, VIC, 3550

Postal address
PO Box 2047, Delivery Centre
Bendigo, VIC, 3554

Telephone: (03) 5441 4251
Fax: (03) 5441 4260
Toll Free: 1300 889 103

Email: senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au

Parliament Office

PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Telephone: (02) 6277 3478
Fax: (02) 6277 5968

Let's all get involved and right the wrongs of the past. Enough is enough. It is not unreasonably for Licensees to expect **fair payment for work performed & services provided.**