



CITY OF MELBOURNE

GPO Box 1603
Melbourne VIC 3001Phone 61 3 9658 9658
Fax 61 3 9654 4854
www.melbourne.vic.gov.auDX210487
ABN 55 370 219 287

10 July 2020

Mr Reece Kershaw
Commander
Australian Federal PoliceVia email - MEL-OMC@afp.gov.au

Dear Commander Kershaw,

I write regarding a matter of concern that occurred in North Melbourne on Thursday 9 July.

The City of Melbourne has been coordinating the delivery of food and other essential items to residents of North Melbourne subject to Victorian Government detention orders due to COVID-19. This includes the delivery of mail.

There were 114 packages delivered by Australia Post to 125/76 Canning Street North Melbourne addressed "to the householder."

The Department of Health and Human Services, as the owner of the unoccupied apartments where the packages were sent, opened one of the packages addressed to the householder since it is the 'householder'. The packages appear to be identical.

The packages contained stubby holders marked 'I've got the guts to say what you're thinking.' A handwritten note reading 'No hard feelings' was also included. The return address for the parcels was Pauline Hanson's [One Nation PO BOX 136, Pinkenba QLD 4008](#).

The North Melbourne public housing estate is culturally and linguistically diverse with residents speaking more than 100 languages. Further, at this time they are particularly vulnerable.

I am concerned that the material and its delivery breaches the Commonwealth Criminal Code as being reasonably likely to cause offence. The code states that it is an offence to use the postal service to menace, harass or cause offence.

It is our intention to return these items to Australia Post, and we have been in touch with them today to discuss this further. However, I would welcome any advice you have on this.

I ask that the Australian Federal Police investigate this matter further, and if required refer this to any other relevant agencies.

I can be contacted on S 47F for any further information required.

Yours sincerely

Justin Hanney
Chief Executive Officer