

V.G. PERFINS OF AUSTRALIA by Bryan Toop, Victoria, Australia.

The puncturing of Australian stamps with the letters V.G. for use by government authorities in Victoria has now come to an end. No date for cessation has been given, but the last stamp to be punctured was the 37c Opening of Parliament House, issued in May '88.

All the values of the stamps of the cartoon series of definitives "Living Together" have been found with the V.G. puncture. The only exception is the later issue of a 39c stamp issued on 28th September 1968 to cover the increase in postal rates.

Stocks of punctured stamps are being used up by government authorities. These authorities will then use either normal non-punctured postage stamps, or will use machines to precancel mail. The reason given for bringing the puncturing to an end was the cost involved. The government was paying one operator a full time salary to puncture the stamps daily. It was estimated that the cost was in excess of the loss expected due to pilfering of postage stamps by office staff.

The only Australian state still to use punctured stamps is New South Wales which uses the G/NSW puncture. The use of these is very limited, the current users being only the Electricity Commission of N.S.W. and the Urban Transit Authority. (Andersen)

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