

# GJC Web Design AusPost Virtuemart 3.0 Shipping Plugin



This is the VirtueMart 3.0 AusPost "Australia Post" Shipping Plugin that fully integrates and shows real time shipping quotes based on vendor and customer postcodes in the checkout process. Installs as a native VirtueMart 3.0 Joomla 3.x Shipping Plugin.

You can download it here - [Download](#)

Price is €40.00

Dedicated Test Site Here [GJC Web Design Aussie Test Site](#)

## Installation Instructions

N.B. Your units for the product need to be in centimeters and kilos!

Product Information	Product Description	Product Status	Product Dimensions and Weight
Product Length	40.0000	Centimeters	
Product Width	10.0000		
Product Height	10.0000		
Product Weight	5.0000	Kilograms	
Product Unit			
Product Packaging	0		
Units in Box	0		

Enable Automatic Selected Shipment?

works best with

After downloading the package (VM.3.0.auspost.shipping.plugin.3.3.9.UNZIPFIRST.zip) first unzip it.

GJC_Web_Design_AusPost_Virtuemart_3.pdf	1,06 MB
VM.3.0.auspost.shipping.plugin.3.3.5.zip	53,7 KB

Use the standard Joomla Installer to install the zip file VM.3.0.auspost.shipping.plugin.3.3.9.zip

Upload Package File   Install from Directory   Install from URL

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### Upload & Install Joomla Extension

---

Extension package file    VM.3.0.auspo...in.3.3.1.zip

The success message will appear

**Message**  
Installing plugin was successful.

---

**Install**   **Virtuemart 3.0 Shipping via auspost.com.au v.3.3.0**

Update   Upload Package File   Install from Directory   Install from URL

---

Manage

---

Discover

---

Database

---

Warnings

---

Install languages

Extension package file    No file chosen

### Enable Plugin:

Go to Extensions->Plug-in Manager and search for 'aus'. Click the icon to enable

auspost   🔍   ✕

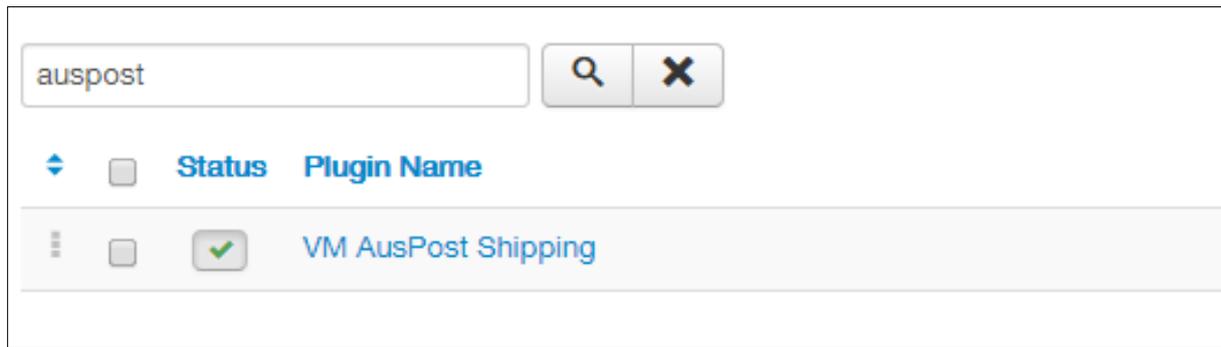
---

⬆   **Status**   **Plugin Name**

⋮         VM AusPost Shipping

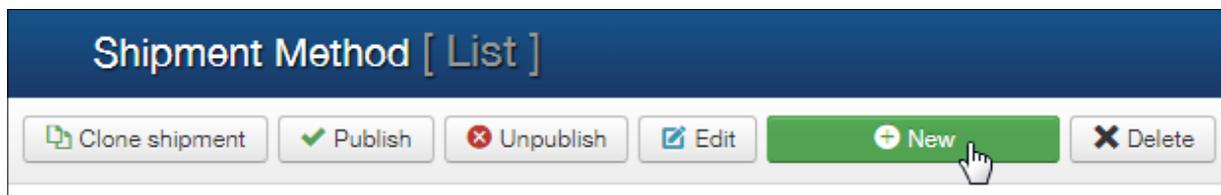
**Enable plugin**

Enabled successfully



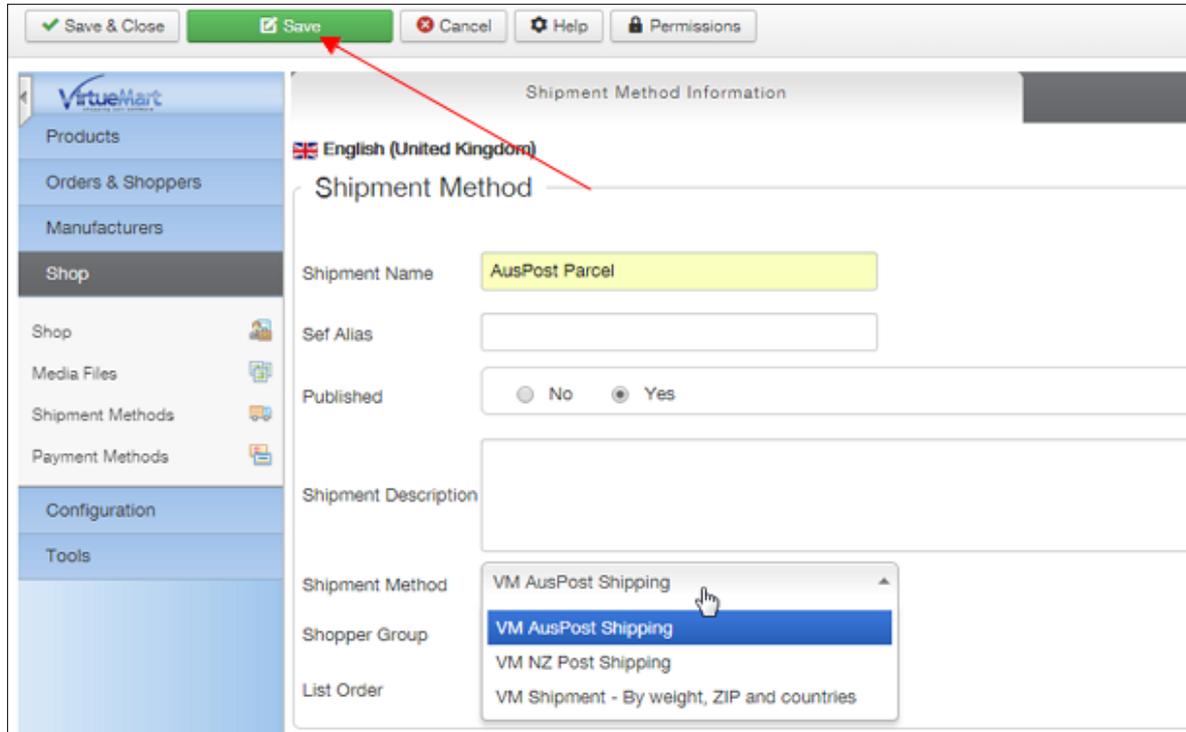
### Make a new Shipping Method:

Now go to Components->Virtuemart and browse to Shop->Shipment methods. Click on "New".



The configuration page will open.

Give the new method a title and select ' VM Aus Post Shipping ' as the method.



## Configuration:

Now click the 'Configuration' Tab.

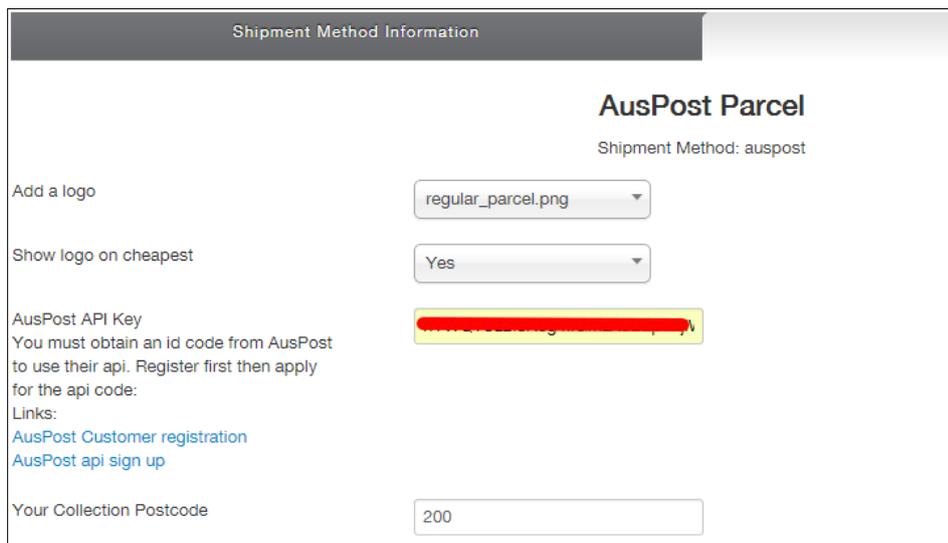
You need to apply for a AusPost api key. First register at

<https://id.auspost.com.au/csso/login/register> and then obtain your api key at

<https://auspost.com.au/devcentre/pacpcs-registration.asp>

Copy paste in your code, select an icon (you can upload your own to plugins/vmshipment/auspost/auspost\_images/ ) and fill in YOUR postcode.

You can choose to show the logo on " Cheapest Rate Always" or not



The screenshot shows a configuration page titled "Shipment Method Information" with a sub-header "AusPost Parcel". The "Shipment Method" is set to "auspost". There are three main configuration sections:

- Add a logo:** A dropdown menu currently showing "regular\_parcel.png".
- Show logo on cheapest:** A dropdown menu currently showing "Yes".
- AusPost API Key:** A text input field containing a redacted key. Below it, there is explanatory text: "You must obtain an id code from AusPost to use their api. Register first then apply for the api code:" followed by "Links:" and two blue links: "AusPost Customer registration" and "AusPost api sign up".

At the bottom, there is a field for "Your Collection Postcode" with the value "200".

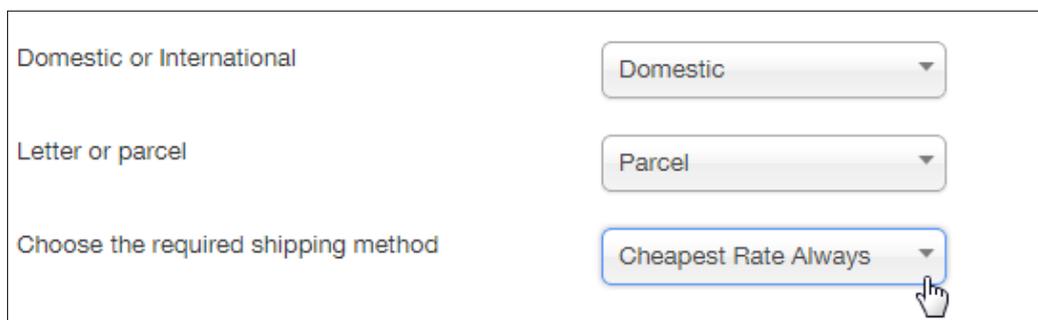
## Shipping Method:

The next step is to configure which shipping method you require.

Choose Domestic or International, Parcel or letter and then the corresponding method.

If you choose ' Cheapest Rate Always ' it will return always the cheapest method only.

All possible AusPost methods are available. If you need multiple methods we show you how to do that later (just clone the current one)



The screenshot shows three configuration options, each with a dropdown menu:

- Domestic or International:** The dropdown menu is set to "Domestic".
- Letter or parcel:** The dropdown menu is set to "Parcel".
- Choose the required shipping method:** The dropdown menu is set to "Cheapest Rate Always". A mouse cursor is pointing at the dropdown arrow.

## Domestic Insurance:

Now choose ' Insurance ' if you require it. This is charged by Auspost at \$1.50 per \$100. The "Signature on Delivery" fee is automatically added on shipments over \$300. This is a AusPost requirement.

Choose the required shipping method

**Incl. Insurance @ \$1.50 per \$100**  
Signature on Delivery will be automatically added if the shipment value is over \$300 - ONLY DOMESTIC!

Cheapest Rate Always

Incl. Insurance @ \$1.50 per \$100  No  Yes

Insurance Fee per \$100

Insurance Label

Product prices result \$12.00

 Auspost Parcel Post Medium (3Kg) Satchel (with insurance : \$1.50) \$14.90

[Change Shipment](#)  
[Paypal](#)  
[Change Payment](#)

## Signature on Delivery:

Now choose ' Signatures on Delivery ' if you require them.

Incl. Signature on Delivery  No  Yes

Signature on Delivery Label

Signature on Delivery Fee

Incl. International Delivery Confirmation  No  Yes

International Delivery Confirmation Label

International Delivery Confirmation Fee

 Auspost Parcel Post Medium (3Kg) Satchel (with signature: \$2.95) \$16.35

[Change Shipment](#)  
[Paypal](#)  
[Change Payment](#)

## Packing Fee:

And then any packing fee you might want to add to the price returned by AusPost - this can be one time or per product.

Packing and Handling Fee	<input type="text"/>
Apply Once?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Apply once <input type="radio"/> Apply to each package

## Discount:

You can choose to offer a discount on the returned AusPost prices - configure here:

Discount Amount	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Discount trigger level	<input type="text" value="100"/>
Discount Type	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Fixed Amount <input type="radio"/> Percentage
Discount Message	<input type="text" value="10% discount on orders over \$100"/>

## Tax:

You can now configure your GST. Auspost returned prices are inclusive of GST so if you enable the Tax option our plugin will calculate the amount of GST at your current tax rate and display it in the Cart. You of course need to configure the tax rate first in VM if you are charging GST.

<b>AusPost Tax</b> Note: AusPost returns the gross amount - i.e. GST incl.. If you choose to show tax i.e select a rate here - then the GST will be first subtracted from the AusPost return and then re-added by VM. Tested accurate so should use. :)	<input type="text" value="before discount"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax	<input type="text" value="Apply no rule"/>

## Countries:

Choose the countries this method will be used for. Choose Australia for domestic methods.

Choose which countries you ship to overseas for your International methods. Exclude Australia!

<b>Choose the countries this method will be used for</b> Choose Australia for domestic. Choose which countries you ship to overseas for your International methods. Exclude Australia!	<input type="text" value="Apply no rule"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Countries	<input type="text" value="Australia x"/>

### Weight Ranges:

Set the weight limits for the method here.

The maximum for normal parcel rates is 22 kg. Set also a minimum of 0.5kg as these low weight items can be sent by Letter rate. (configure separately)

Satchel weights should also be set here if you are configuring these methods.

Lowest Weight to ship(kg - no units)	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Highest Weight to ship (kg - no units)	<input type="text" value="25"/>

New for 3.3.5 is the ability to add overweight shipments .. (i.e. send an over weight order in 2 or more parcels). Auspost has a Max of 22kg so if enabled the system finds the cost of a 22kg order and adds a per kilo amount to the over weight based on the returned cost. As this relationship is not linear there is a fiddle factor to increase the price per kilo added to the overage. You need to experiment with this a little but I found a factor of 1.7 gave fairly accurate results.

Allow overweight orders	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Overweight factor (if above enabled)	<input type="text" value="1.7"/>

### Free shipping:

It is also possible to have free shipping for a method for orders over a certain value.

Leave blank if you don't need this.

Free Shipping from	<input type="text" value="200"/>
Label for Free Shipping	<input type="text" value="Free shipping"/>

### Standard shipping size:

As you probably know AusPost calculates the shipping cost based on weight. But they also calculate a "volume weight" based on length x height x width. This will apply to large bulky but light parcels but won't affect 99% of users (unless you ship feathers etc). Therefore AusPost requires these measurements to be sent as well.

There is also a 105cm length limit on standard parcel measurements and a length limits for the Satchels. This is also checked by the plugin.

If your articles have only weights without size measurements the plugin will calculate a per side measurements to send to AusPost (they are required) based on the cube root of the total volume.

This is an all or nothing system - so if you have no measurements it will work but if some of your items have measurements and are added to the cart with the non-measurement items the total of the with measurements will be used and be inaccurate!

**For best accuracy ALWAYS ad measurements to your products especially if they are of "unusually" large sizes!**

### Display options and error handling:

Different ways can be configured to handle errors (non existing postcode, AusPost doesn't respond etc). If a valid response is not returned then this method will not be available so you don't offer free shipping unawares! Experiment with the different configurations to see what suits best.

Our plugin first validates all entries so this is also a de facto postcode checker.

Show AusPost error	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Error Label in shipping select	Please check your address
Show messages?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

### Debugging setting:

There is extensive debugging available to help with any issues. If you do have a problem we are here to help - just use our Support page at <http://www.gicwebdesign.com/home/support.html>

We may ask you to copy paste the debug to help us diagnose your problem - but 99% of the time all runs smoothly! There is also a "fail the server" option so you can check how your settings respond if the Auspost server doesn't respond.

Debug on?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Minor Debugging on?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Test AusPost failure	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

## Improving the display

You can add a bit of css and get rid of the Discount/Fee: label to tidy the layout.

**Discount/Fee:** - language/en-GB/en-GB.com\_virtuemart.ini around line 297

change to COM\_VIRTUEMART\_PLUGIN\_COST\_DISPLAY=""

**css** - add the following at the bottom of your (normally) components/com\_virtuemart/assets/css/vmsite-ltr.css

```
.cart-summary input[type="radio"] {
    display: block;
    float: left;
    height: 20px;
    margin: 0 5px 0 0;
    vertical-align: middle;
}
span.vmshipment_description, span.vmshipment_cost {
margin:0 0 5px 0;
display:inline;
}
.vmshipment_cost {
    color: #FF0000;
}
.vmshipment_name {
    font-weight: bold;
}
.auspostmethods input {
    cursor: pointer;
}
.vmCartShipmentLogo {
float:left;
margin:0 5px 0 0;
}
```

## Adding \$0.00 when free post is triggered (VM2.x)

If you need the \$0.00 to appear in the Cart when free shipping is triggered you need to replace the shipping price table cell in your **cart/tmpl/default\_pricelist.php** around line 334 on the default template the following code found here:

```
<td align="right"><?php
    if(empty($this->cart-
>pricesUnformatted['salesPriceShipment'])) {
```

```
        echo $this->currencyDisplay->createPriceDiv
('salesPriceShipment', '', '0.00', FALSE);
    }else{
        echo $this->currencyDisplay->createPriceDiv
('salesPriceShipment', '', $this->cart-
>pricesUnformatted['salesPriceShipment'], FALSE);
    }?> </td>
```

Below is a round up of the main features of our plugin. We hope you are satisfied with it.

Regards,

John,

GJC Web Design.

## **The Australian Post Virtuemart 2.0/3.0 Shipping Plugin**



Our VirtueMart 3.0 Shipping Module/Plugin for the Australian Post Office Parcel Service - Domestic and International services has been in constant development since we followed up our Australian Post VM1.1 version in early 2012.

So we thought it is about time we had a round up of what it can do and how best to configure it as a lot of new features have been added over the last year.

The latest version is 3.3.9. This is fully compatible with both VM3 & 2 and Joomla 3.x

**Remember - updates for current major VM or Joomla releases free for 12 months!!!**

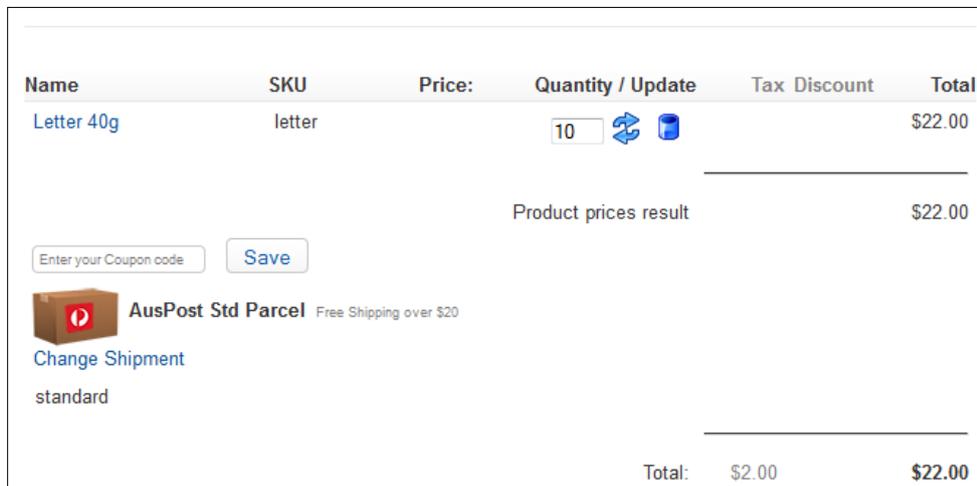
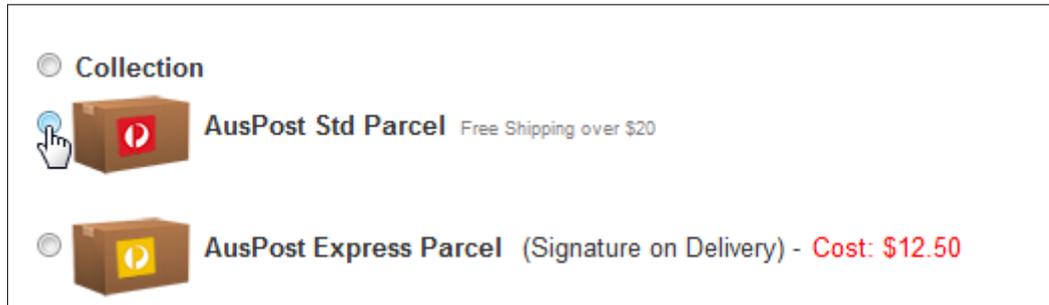
Just use our [Support Page](#) and request your update - please mention your order id and email you used while ordering.

We will email you the new zip bundle - just re-install as normal - all your methods and settings will be saved.

## Features:

### Free shipping with proper labels:

Many shipping plugins just return a blank when free shipping is triggered. Ours returns a proper label!



### Add your own icon images:

Just upload your own images (60px x 40px) to plugins/vmshipment/auspost/auspost\_images/ and they will be available in the plugin admin for selection.

### Automatically finds the cheapest AusPost method:

If you select 'Cheapest Rate Always' in the 'Choose the required shipping method' drop down our plugin will automatically find the cheapest rate and display its correct name!

N.B. don't mix the 'Cheapest Rate Always' with other relevant (i.e. Domestic or International) methods.

**Shipping Type**  
Choose where and how you will ship.  
Just make some new Virtuemart shipping methods (Clone Shipment) if you need multiple methods!

Domestic or International

Letter or parcel

Choose the required shipping method

-  AusPost Std Parcel - Cost: \$13.60
-  AusPost Express Parcel - Cost: \$23.35
-  AusPost Parcel Post Satchel - Cost: \$16.70
-  AusPost Express Post Satchel - Cost: \$23.60

**Over length protection:**

AusPost sets length limits for it's parcel delivery as below:

- Standard parcel: 105cm
- Small satchel: 35.5cm
- Medium stachel: 40.5cm
- Large satchel: 51cm

(source: <http://auspost.com.au/parcels-mail/prepaid-satchels.html>)

We have of course provided full length detection for these methods and if any of the products in the order are over these dimensions ( and your not using 'One click set for measurements' ) that particular method will not be returned by the system.

**One click set for measurements:**

As you probably know AusPost calculates the shipping cost based on weight. But they also calculate a "volume weight" based on length x height x width. This will apply to large bulky but light parcels but won't affect 99% of users (unless you ship feathers etc). Therefore AusPost requires these measurements to be sent as well.

There is also a 105cm length limit on standard parcel measurements and a length limits for the Satchels. This is also checked by the plugin.

If your articles have only weights without size measurements the plugin will calculate a per side measurements to send to AusPost (they are required) based on the cube root of the total volume.

This is an all or nothing system - so if you have no measurements it will work but if some of your items have measurements and are added to the cart with the non-measurement items the total of the with measurements will be used and be inaccurate!

For best accuracy ALWAYS ad measurements to your products especially if they are of "unusually" large sizes!

### Fail safe protection:

We have had some reports of the AusPosts servers timing out at busy periods in which case a the native shipping routines would consider a no-return as zero and make it selectable for the client!

We have coded the AusPost Shipping Plugin to check for a valid response and if non is received to grey out (make non-selectable) the radio button and to display a message: 'AusPost did not respond - please try again'. There is also a debug option for this.

Collection

 **AusPost Std Parcel** Free Shipping over \$20 Free Shipping over \$20

 **AusPost Express Parcel** (Signature on Delivery) AusPost did not respond - please try again

 **AusPost Parcel Post Large Satchel** - Cost: \$16.70

### Fully GST compatible:

Our plugin also is coded to provide the correct GST display within the cart, taking the value from the tax configuration of your site.

**AusPost Tax**  
Note: AusPost returns the gross amount - i.e. GST incl.. If you choose to show tax i.e select a rate here - then the GST will be first subtracted from the AusPost return and then re-added by VM. Tested accurate so should use.  
:)

Tax

Countries

Name	SKU	Price:	Quantity / Update	Tax	Discount	Total	
Hammer Chain size 30	H02		1  		\$0.12	<del>\$6.04</del> \$5.92	
Product prices result					\$0.12	\$5.92	
<input type="text" value="Enter your Coupon code"/> <input type="button" value="Save"/>							
	AusPost Parcel Post Satchel				\$1.52	\$16.70	
<a href="#">Change Shipment</a> standard							
Total:					\$2.07	\$0.12	<b>\$22.62</b>

### Clear Information for your visitors:

We also return the error messages from AusPost to the client so they understand any problem that may occur e.g. a non-valid postcode.

This can be displayed in the methods themselves or use the Virtuemart messaging system or both.

You can even choose your own message to display in the methods when an error occurs!

The method selection of course is disabled for any method that has an error .

You are here: [Home](#) ▶ [Shopping cart](#) ▶ [Select shipment](#)

 **Info: auspost.com.au : Please enter a valid To postcode.**

- 
**AusPost Parcel Post Satchel** Please enter a valid To postcode.
- 
**AusPost Express Post Satchel** Please enter a valid To postcode.

### Pre-fail on errors:

Another feature for each domestic method is Pre-fail on an AusPost error (normally it would be a non valid postcode). This effectively works as a postcode validation for your site, by simply changing the default VirtueMart error message 'We are sorry, no shipment method matches the characteristics of your order.' (COM\_VIRTUEMART\_CART\_NO\_SHIPPING\_METHOD\_PUBLIC) to 'Please check your postcode!'

Please select a shipment method

Please check your postcode!

### Signature on Delivery:

This is fully configurable in the plugin administration with choice of price and label. The labelling is automatic.

-  AusPost Std Parcel - Cost: \$13.60
-  AusPost Express Parcel (Signature on Delivery) - Cost: \$26.30

### Full debugging available:

If for any reason the AusPost Virtuemart shipping plugin doesn't return what you expected debugging is a breeze. Simply switch on the debugging option in the AusPost plugin options and a full and complete readout of everything the system is calculating and receiving from AusPost is printed out. Any problems are simple to diagnose! - from v1.2.6 full cURL debugging to diagnose any connection problems.

```
Debug Line 292 $TotalQuantity
1

Debug Line 307 $shipment AUS_PARCEL_REGULAR
Debug Line 308 $shiptype 0
Debug Line 309 $packtype 1

Debug Line 426 $link
https://auspost.com.au/api/postage/parcel/domestic/calculate.xml?from_postcode=8000&to_postcode=2000&length=20&
height=20&width=20&service_code=AUS_PARCEL_REGULAR&weight=1

Australia Post assesses charges for parcels according to their actual or cubic weight equivalent, whichever is greater. Weights
```

There is also "Minor Debugging" so you can check that your configuration is doing what you want it to!

```
Minor Debug for Auspost Shipping
Debug for AusPost Regular Parcel Method ID:1 - GJC Auspost 1.2.8
Country condition "true"
Length condition "true"
Weight condition "true" (4Kg)
Destination Postcode: 4670
No measurements - dummy values used.
Quantity is 2
Volume is 8000cm2
Calculated lengths are 20.00cm per side
AusPost returns $28.65 incl. GST
Service: Parcel Post
AusPost returns $26.05 ex. GST
```

## Configuration

Our plugin is very simple to install and configure and if you need any help we are always here. Just read some of the reviews on Joomla Extensions to see what other customers think of our service!

<http://extensions.joomla.org/extensions/extension-specific/virtuemart-extensions/virtuemart-shipping/20740>

e.g

*"Thanks for a great, well coded, extension with great support.*

*Took a couple of minutes to install and select the appropriate options, the instructions page is simple but covers everything needed (included an override to display zero values which I implemented first go) and when the client later wanted free shipping for selected items, John from GJC was as good as his word and responded within 12 hours (different time zones) with a solution."*