

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0132) Program: Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?

Answer:

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

If a suspected breach of the code of conduct is identified, the matter is referred to the Director, Values & Conduct to investigate. If inappropriate use is identified, the matter may be referred to the Australian Federal Police for assessment and further action. Any disciplinary action taken by DIAC is in accordance with the *Public Service Act 1999 (the Act)*.

The AFP, upon acceptance of a referral, may consider a criminal investigation and subsequent referral of a Brief of Evidence to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. Section 15 of the Act allows an agency head or a duly authorised delegate to impose a range of disciplinary remedies, such as a reprimand, where minor breaches are discovered, to loss of employment in more serious cases.

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

MRT/RRT treat any unauthorised usage as possible fraud and it is discussed with the individual and their manager.

MRT/RRT staff are required to repay the unauthorised usage amount.

If a suspected breach of the APS code of conduct is identified, the matter is referred to MRT/RRT's Values & Conduct Section to investigate whether a breach has occurred.