

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 62

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:

With reference to page 20 of the Annual Report regarding the AusCheck service:

- (a) Please explain where the service is at in relation to the roll-out of MSIC cards.
- (b) Have all card holders in the roll-out been screened by MSIC?
- (c) How many have been screened?
- (d) What percentage of the total does that represent?
- (e) Has an average screening cost been determined?
- (f) Is this based on a fee per service cost recovery basis?
- (g) What percentage is returned with negative checks?
- (h) What percentage is returned with positive checks?
- (i) In assessing a potential card holder as a security risk, what are the range of offences for which a conviction would not result in a negative result?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- (a) - (d) These are matters for the Department of Transport and Regional Services, which has policy responsibility for aviation and maritime security matters and is responsible for the roll-out of MSIC cards. AusCheck will commence operations from 1 July 2007.
- (e) The average screening cost has not yet been determined.
- (f) There will be a charge for each application for a background check sent by an aviation or maritime Issuing Body. That charge will recover the costs incurred by Attorney-General's Department, ASIO, DIMA and CrimTrac. These costs are in the process of being calculated and it is expected that an indication of the likely cost will be available in early 2007.
- (g)- (h) These are matters for the Department of Transport and Regional Services, which has policy responsibility for aviation and maritime security matters and is responsible for the MSIC roll-out. AusCheck will commence operations from 1 July 2007.
- (i) This is a matter for the Department of Transport and Regional Services, which has policy responsibility for the regulatory framework for aviation and maritime security which includes the disqualifying offences for MSIC cards.