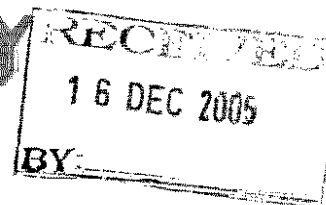




Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services

COPY



Senator the Hon Bill Heffernan
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Heffernan

Subject: Amendment to Hansard — Supplementary Estimates Hearings October 2005

I write in relation to statements made by the General Manager, Office of Transport Security, Ms Vicki Dickman, at the Department of Transport and Regional Services Supplementary Senate Estimates Hearings on 31 October 2005. At the time of the hearing incorrect information was unintentionally provided in response to a question from Senator O'Brien, recorded on page 53, line 47 of the Supplementary Estimates Hansard:

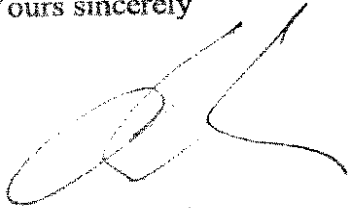
'Ms Dickman—That is correct. If they have a legitimate need to access a security regulated airport, then they are required to have an ASIC. Those pilots, for example crop dusters, that tend not to need to access a security regulated airport will simply have their pilot photo ID, but both of them have the same background checks underpinning them.'

The final part of Ms Dickman's response is incorrect and I would appreciate the removal of the words 'but both of them have the same background checks underpinning them' from the record. There are no replacement words.

Both a pilot licence and an ASIC require a security assessment through the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, a criminal records check through the Australian Federal Police and, if relevant, a citizenship check through the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. However, as a result of the different eligibility requirements, the background checking for an ASIC is more rigorous than is required for a pilot licence.

I apologise for this error and any inconvenience that the incorrect information may have caused.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AL', written over a faint circular stamp.

Mr Andrew Lalor
Acting General Manager
Office of Transport Security

15 December 2005