

Senate Inquiry Access to APH by Lobbyists Inquiry

Question on Notice no. 03 – 08 April 2024

Senator Richard Colbeck asked the Department of Parliamentary Services on 08 April 2024:

CHAIR: So what are the issues that a—is it a national police check?

Mr Stefanic: Yes, it is.

CHAIR: What are the flags that that might raise? It wouldn't necessarily be security, I would have thought.

Mr Stefanic: The police history check will identify any criminal conviction. The question, I guess—

CHAIR: But that only goes back a period, though, doesn't it? Having had one recently for a preselection process, I think there is a life of five or 10 years—10 years I think it is—for which records prevail or stay on the register.

Ms Tunningley: There is. I can't recall exactly what that period of time is, but there is a period of time. I know, though, that historically we have had information that has disclosed quite a significant period of time, and then we would assess the relevance of that information, depending on how long ago the criminal conviction was. So that is a factor that we consider when undertaking a security risk assessment against the individual. I can take on notice the specific question that you asked about the period of time that comes back on the disclosable court outcomes.

Answer

The timeframe applied in the Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check differs from state to state in accordance with the relevant spent convictions legislation or information release policies. More detailed information can be found on the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission website at <https://www.acic.gov.au/services/national-police-checking-service>.