

**Senate Economics References Committee**  
**Matters relating to credit card interest rates**

***Questions on Notice from Joel Gibson, One Big Switch,  
following Sydney hearing on 16/10/2015***

**What was the median total credit card balance reported by registrants of the Big Debt Switch campaign?**

The median total credit card balance reported was \$4000.

**Does defrosting a frozen credit card in a microwave destroy its magnetic strip?**

While there is ample evidence that RFID 'smart chips' are destroyed by heating in a microwave (For example, see: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB114463085998921417>), and that credit card plastic will shrink and warp when heated in a microwave (like a chip packet), I cannot confirm what the impact of heating might be on a magnetic strip. But I would not recommend it.