

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 128

Topic: Credit Cards

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014: 1. Provide a breakdown of any changes to employment classifications that have access to a corporate credit card.
2. Have there been any changes to action taken in the event that the corporate credit card is misused?
3. Have there been any changes to how corporate credit card use is monitored?
4. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse been discovered during the specified period? If so:
5. Please list staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
6. Have there been any changes to what action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?
7. How many credit cards are available to the Minister or their office? If so, please list by classification. Has there been any misuse of credit cards by the Minister or their office? Has any action been taken against the Minister or their office for credit card misuse? If so, list each occurrence, including the cost of the misuse.

Answer:

1. As at 31 August 2014, the Department had active cards (including travel and purchasing cards) issued to Departmental staff as per the table below. Credit cards are issued to staff based on business needs, not classification level.

Classification	Number of Cards
SES	177
EL and APS staff	1,050

2. No.
3. No.
4. Yes.
5. For the period 1 June 2014 to 31 August 2014, there have been 2 instances of inadvertent personal usage involving 2 EL/APS level staff. There were no cases of deliberate misuse and in both cases debt recovery procedures were initiated.
6. No.
7. One Departmental Liaison Officer working in Senator Fierravanti-Well's Office has been issued with a departmental credit card. The classification of this officer is Executive Level 1. There have been no instances of misuse by the card holder. Information relating to any credit cards issued directly to Ministers or their Offices would need to be sought from the Department of Finance.