

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 348

Program No: Australia Post

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Credit Cards

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 have 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 available to the Minister or their office? If so, please list by classification. Have 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 October 2014, 2,562 employees have access to a corporate credit card (Managers 1,057 and Staff 1,505).
2. No. Australia Post's well publicised "Our Ethics" policy, details the standards of behaviour expected of everyone who works for or represents the corporation and the disciplinary measures that will be taken in the event of a breach of standards. This includes referral of suspected or alleged criminal behaviour to its Security Group. Where evidence supports the allegation, the matter will be referred to the appropriate authorities or the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.
3. No. Use is monitored through authorisation statements, monthly reporting and periodical audits.
- 4-5. No cases of alleged or proven criminal behaviour involving corporate credit cards have been reported to Australia Post's Security Group from 1 June 2014 to 31 October 2014.
6. No.
7. No credit cards are available to the Minister or their office.