

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 3

Program: 1.6

Question No. AE15/047

Senator Bullock asked the following written question from the 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearings:

1. Has any work been done on establishing processes for providing automatic notification to the Office of Transport Security if a holder of an Aviation Security Identification Card commits particular offences against State, Territory or Commonwealth laws?
 - a. If not, what steps would need to be taken to establish such a process?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

AusCheck and CrimTrac (in close consultation with the States, Territories and other relevant Commonwealth agencies) have previously explored the options available to identify cardholders as soon as they are convicted of any offences that may pose a threat to the aviation environment ('continuous checking').

There remains significant technical, privacy/information sharing, and cost issues between State and Territory governments, and within jurisdictions that need to be resolved before continuous checking can deliver substantially improved security outcomes.

Under the Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) scheme, card holders who are convicted of a security-relevant offence have a statutory obligation to report this to AusCheck or their issuing body within seven days of being convicted and sentenced by a court

To examine the impact of a possible continuous checking regime, AusCheck undertook an analysis of approximately 40,000 ASIC and Maritime Security Identification Card applications lodged over a four month period between 1 May and 31 August 2012. The data revealed that three applicants had new criminal convictions (from 1 December 2010) that would have changed their eligibility status from eligible to 'adverse'.