

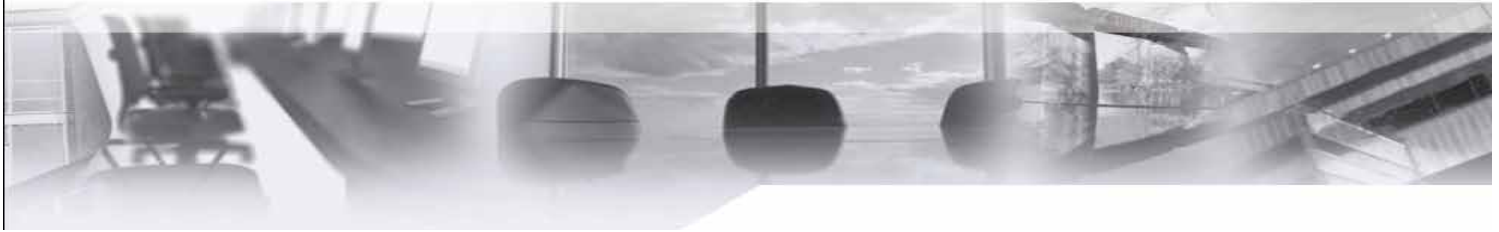
AusCheck

The Australian Background Checking Service



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

April 2008



AusCheck Training

All AusCheck IT training scheduled for April and May has been temporarily suspended.

Issuing Bodies that have logged onto the web services test site have experienced extended delays with page downloads and page refresh rates.

These delays are due to an unresolved technical issue that must be rectified before training can be effectively conducted.

AusCheck will contact Issuing Bodies when the issue has been resolved and will provide a revised training schedule.

AusCheck apologises for any inconvenience caused. To discuss this matter directly, please call Kieran Murphy on (02) 6228 2884

AusCheck Client Survey

The first AusCheck Client Satisfaction Survey closes Wednesday 30 April 2008.

This survey provides you with an opportunity to rate the performance of AusCheck and will assist AusCheck to improve its services to all Issuing Bodies.

If you have not completed your survey, please do so before the closing date to have your say in creating a better AusCheck.

Any Issuing Body who did not receive logon access or a password to complete their survey should contact: AusCheck@ag.gov.au.

AusCheck Consultative Committee

The next AusCheck Consultative Committee is being held on 29 April 2008.

The Committee meets monthly via teleconference and is composed of industry representatives and executives from each branch of AusCheck.

This teleconference will be devoted to discussion of the Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS).

The initial CRIS, released in May 2006, set background checking costs until 30 June 2008 and indicated that a price review would be conducted early in 2008 in order to set costs up to 30 June 2010. This second CRIS sets out the findings of that review.

If you are not a Consultative Committee member but would like to take part in the discussion at the next teleconference, please forward your details to AusCheck@ag.gov.au and we will send you the conference time and dial-in details.



Minutes with Finance

Current Financial Position

Year to date figures are as follows:

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Revenue	\$5.30m	\$5.24	-\$0.06m
Expenses	\$6.40m	\$6.23m	-\$0.17m
Under/(Over) Recovery	-\$1.10m	-\$0.99m	-\$0.23m

Background checking services for March 2008 fell 47% below anticipated demand levels, despite conservative estimations being used when forecasting. Expenses in March were lower than budgeted due to the expected demand not being realised. Checking partner costs were also lower than anticipated.

Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS)

The draft release of the 2008 - 2010 CRIS was provided to Issuing Bodies on 15 April 2008. The tables below report the difference between the current and proposed fees:

ASIC Type	2007/08	To 30 June 2010	Increase
New without DIAC	\$86.00	\$90.00	\$4.00
New with DIAC	\$90.00	\$94.00	\$4.00
Renewal without DIAC	\$76.00	\$81.00	\$5.00
Renewal with DIAC	\$80.00	\$85.00	\$5.00

MSIC Type	2007/08	To 30 June 2010	Increase
New without DIAC	\$89.00	\$93.50	\$4.50
New with DIAC	\$93.00	\$97.50	\$4.50
Renewal without DIAC	\$79.00	\$84.00	\$5.00
Renewal with DIAC	\$83.00	\$88.00	\$5.00

Feedback on the CRIS

The Consultative Committee on 29 April 2008 will focus primarily on the proposed CRIS. We look forward to responding to any questions or comments you may have at this meeting. If you are unable to attend the consultative committee teleconference and would like to comment on the CRIS, please forward all comments to: AusCheck@ag.gov.au

May 2008 Invoices

AusCheck's Cost Recovery Officer will be contacting Issuing Bodies who have not yet paid invoices dated 3 March 2008. Issuing Bodies with March invoices still outstanding on 5 May 2008 will have their accounts suspended. Invoices for background checks lodged in April will be forwarded to Issuing Bodies on 1 May 2008.

Proper Decision Making Practices

There have been a number of appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) by individuals wishing to dispute the outcome of their ASIC/MSIC applications. There appears to be some confusion as to how decisions by Issuing Bodies are to be made and how they are able to be reviewed.

It is important that all Issuing Bodies remember that decisions regarding ASIC/MSIC applications are made on behalf of Government and proper administrative processes must therefore be followed. All decisions made by an Issuing Body are reviewable.

In one particular case before the AAT it was held that the decision by an Issuing Body not to apply to the Secretary of Infrastructure on behalf of an individual was unreasonable. This emphasises the need for Issuing Bodies to avoid making decisions arbitrarily or without appropriate explanation and justification.

Appeals to the AAT about AusCheck decisions are appropriate where an individual disagrees with AusCheck's interpretation of the Regulations or disputes the information in the criminal history certificate.

Applications to the Secretary of Infrastructure, on the other hand, are appropriate in circumstances where an individual is not necessarily denying that they have an adverse criminal record, but believes that the circumstances of the offence or their conduct since mean that they do not pose a security risk and should still be issued with an ASIC/MSIC.

AusCheck Passes 70,000 Checks

As at Friday 18 April 2008

- Total applications received (less duplicates) 71,589
- Total applications completed 69,725
- Applications with checking partners 1,717
- Applications pending AusCheck decision 147