



Executive Director's Message

The last few months of 2006 have been a hectic time as all our planning and preparation now begins to be implemented. As you will see from this newsletter, the Attorney-General introduced the AusCheck Bill 2006 into the Australian Parliament on 7 December 2006, we have taken delivery of the first stages of the AusCheck IT system and our costing model is nearing completion.

The most pleasing aspect of the past 3 months is the increased level of engagement with industry that we have achieved, particularly focussing on familiarising ourselves with the IT environments of our industry clients into which the AusCheck IT system will be released. We plan to build upon these relationships in 2007 and look forward to working closely with our industry clients across the full range of issues we will face in order to ensure a smooth transition to AusCheck by 1 July 2007.

Finally, may I wish you and your families a very safe and Merry Christmas.

Elizabeth Kelly

Industry testing of IT system

AusCheck and Change Corporation Pty Ltd have taken an iterative approach to the development of the AusCheck IT System. This will allow parts of the system to be made available for review and comment by end-users before the entire system is finished.

From mid-January, AusCheck will provide access to the system incorporating the majority of 'Issuing Body' functions: lodging applications and renewals, viewing progress, searching and updating card information. Other reporting and web service functions will be placed online for review as they become available.

In January, we'll write to issuing body contacts with dates, internet addresses and feedback about test accounts.

AusCheck expects that access to a working prototype system will result in better issue identification and a more user friendly system.

Issuing Bodies will need to complete a 'permission to operate' process before gaining access to the *live* system.

Release of Final IT System

AusCheck will have a stable and complete system in place in March 2007.

Planning for the transition of existing data from the Department of Transport and Regional Services Background Checking Unit to the AusCheck system is well underway.

AusCheck is engaging a number of industry liaison officers to assist issuing bodies with the transition and implementation processes. We will provide more information early in 2007.

AusCheck Development Forum

The AusCheck web portal for downloading system information - web service schema, screenshots, user guides.

Email auscheck@ag.gov.au with your name and email to gain access.



The AusCheck Bill – A legislative framework for the AusCheck service

The **AusCheck Bill 2006** was introduced into the House of Representatives on Thursday 7 December by the Attorney-General, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP. The Bill will provide a legal framework for the background checking functions provided by AusCheck.

The Bill provides the framework for regulation of the collection of personal information for the purposes of specified classes of background checks. Initially, AusCheck will only provide background checks for the aviation and maritime industries. In future other background checking schemes may be included.

The Bill is scheduled for debate in the autumn sittings of Parliament. Passage of the Bill will ensure the legislative framework is in place by AusCheck's scheduled commencement date of 1 July 2007.

AusCheck has been established to operate on a cost recovery basis and the Bill provides for cost recovery-based fees to be charged.

The Bill can be viewed here: [AusCheck Bill](#)

Cost Recovery Impact Statement

The Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) is progressing and is expected to be released to industry for comment in mid January 2007 – pending confirmation from the Department of Finance and Administration - with final comments being provided by March 2007.

Industry consultation will be undertaken on the dates listed below. Times will be advised in mid January 2007. AusCheck will be represented by Elizabeth Kelly - Executive Director, Annette Bouchier - Assistant Secretary and Craig Jordan - Finance Director.

Proposed AusCheck CRIS Industry Consultation

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|-------------|-------|---------------|
| • Canberra | 7 | February 2007 |
| • Melbourne | 8/9 | February 2007 |
| • Sydney | 12/13 | February 2007 |
| • Brisbane | 14/15 | February 2007 |
| • Perth | 19/20 | February 2007 |
| • Adelaide | 21 | February 2007 |

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