

The Chairman,  
Public Accounts and Audit Committee,  
House of Representatives,  
Canberra.

Dear Sir,

I am the principal of an architectural firm specialising in airport design both here and overseas.

I share some of your concerns regarding ASIC passes, but have to say that the situation specifically at Sydney Airport, has been the subject of enormous improvement over the last few years. A great number of loop holes which were blatantly obvious to us working there have been filled and abuses have been markedly decreased.

However, the difficulties of building on the airport, airside particularly, are severely effected by the tremendous delays in the issue of ASICS. In a current case, the building projects are almost completed and the ASICS are still not issued.

The nature of tendering building projects means that work has to commence almost immediately and waiting for ASICS for some months would result in the contracts becoming null and void.

Additionally, there are some subcontractors who are only needed for small amounts of work, say for a day or two.

There is obviously no way of avoiding some sort of temporary pass, but at the moment the 'host' pass-holder is not subject to any real responsibility for the bona fides of the applicant.

In each company sponsoring applications there is a designated officer of the company who signs for ASICs on behalf of the company. Perhaps if these officers were required to sign the application for temporary passes as well and if it was required of them to verify the applicant, then more control would be instilled in the temporary pass system. At the moment, anyone with an ASIC can request a temporary pass for another person. It would be relatively efficient for a form to be produced to be signed by the certified company officer.

In addition, surely in this computer age, a police check can be carried out fairly instantaneously. Perhaps the police need an officer and computer terminal at the airport to carry our special checks for temporary passes.

I hope these observations are of value to your committee and that you will consider this particular problem.

Graham Humphrey, Humphrey and Edwards, Architects, Sydney.