

Schools purchasing card

DEECD guidelines and
procedures



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Contents

1. Introduction	17
2. School Council.....	18
School Council cont.	19
School Council cont.	20
Summary of Specific Responsibilities of School Council.....	20
3. Authorisation Officer	21
Summary of Specific Responsibilities of Authorisation Officer	21
4. Cardholder	22
Summary of Specific Responsibilities of Cardholder.....	23
5. Audit Requirements	23
6. Administrative Procedures	24
Introduction	24
School Council/Cardholder Liability.....	24
No Card Fees.....	24
School Purchasing Card Statement	24
Settlement Arrangements	24
Routine Tasks	25
Financial Delegation.....	25
Delegations of Authority	25
CASES21 Accounts Payable	25
Goods and Services Tax.....	25
Fringe Benefits Tax	26
Personal Identification Number (PIN).....	26
Card Usage Restrictions	26
Lost/Stolen Cards.....	26
Discrepancies with Goods and Services	26
Disputed Transactions	27
Cardholder Register	27
Cardholder Termination	27
7. Checklists for School Purchasing Card Program	28
8. Contacts.....	30

9. Glossary of Terms.....	31
Glossary of Terms cont.	32

1. Introduction

Significant technological advances in recent years have resulted in considerable and far-reaching changes in the field of electronic commerce.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has been actively involved in monitoring and evaluating these developments as part of enhanced financial management in schools. BillPay, BPAY and internet banking are examples of the way schools have adopted technology.

The use of purchasing cards in schools can result in better cash flow management, reduced level of documentation, enhanced purchasing processes and improved internal controls. An obvious area of advantage is that of external or remote access to funds e.g. camps.

Westpac Banking Corporation has been awarded the Whole of Government contract for the provision of Cash and Banking Services. This contract includes the DEECD Schools Purchasing Card facility that is endorsed as the Westpac Visa Card.¹

The Purchasing Card Facility has been approved by the Minister as an addition to the DEECD endorsed purchasing practices in place in schools.

The following procedures and 'best practise' approach is provided to assist school councils to benefit from using the purchasing card, while maintaining required internal controls and current purchasing guidelines.

The school's decision to apply for a purchasing card is not intended to replace the existing purchasing practice, it is offered as another method of payment for goods and services. A purchasing card is an enhancement to current methods, to assist with flexibility, time saving and convenience. School councils are encouraged to review current school purchasing processes in order to determine the most appropriate use of the purchasing card. All normal procurement processes apply for the use of the purchasing card e.g. quotes, purchase orders (approval to purchase) and tax invoices are required.

When considering the introduction of a purchasing card, it is advisable that the current purchasing system used in the school is documented for the school community.

This booklet provides advice to:

- the three groups in schools who are responsible for the purchasing card, i.e.:
 - the school council,
 - the authorisation officer and
 - the cardholder
- the school's administrative officer/s with responsibility for financial data entry and related purchasing, reporting and remittance procedure

Principals and business managers are required to attend a Schools Purchasing Card Briefing, prior to the facility initially being approved by School Council.

¹ Government legislation and DEECD policy prohibits the use of any Purchasing Card alternatives, including credit cards from other financial institutions

2. School Council

The school council is responsible for the financial management of the school. School council ultimately confirms and acknowledges transaction revenue and expenditure by prior approval or ratification. The introduction of a purchasing card impacts on the school council, as it represents another means of acquiring goods and services for the school.

It is recommended that a school council formally adopts procedures in order to ensure card implementation and usage is maintained under 'best practice' conditions to ensure financial accountability and optimum internal control.

School council should confirm current purchasing related internal controls prior to the incorporation of proposed school purchasing card procedures. The following checklist is provided to assist in this process.

Internal Controls - Purchase of Goods/Services	✓
• A school purchase order document is used to initiate or ratify expenditure.	
• Quotes and tenders are obtained as required In accordance with the Victorian Government Purchasing Guidelines.	
• Pre-numbered purchase order forms are kept in a secure location and recorded in the school's Accountable Documents Register.	
• All orders are approved: purchase orders signed by the school principal or authorised nominee	
• Duplicate copies of the purchase order are retained by the school.	
• The person receiving the goods is different from the person authorising the order.	
• Goods are checked against delivery documents	
• Delivery docket checked against supplier's invoice and purchase order	
• Duplicate copy of the purchase order and original invoice is endorsed with "goods received" and invoice is endorsed with "paid".	
• Person checking invoice for correctness signs to accept responsibility.	

School Council cont.

In addition to the school's current purchasing controls, the school council must ensure that there are additional controls in place specifically for the introduction and use of the school's purchasing card.

Additional controls for school purchasing card	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school council and principal determine which personnel and activities will be eligible to use the purchasing card.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school council and principal determine the expenditure limit for each cardholder and provide financial delegation to this upper limit.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School council, after advice from the principal, appoint an "Authorisation Officer".	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An "Undertaking by the Card holder" is completed by each user after modifications by the principal.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principal ensures that;<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. all approved purchasing card holders receive a briefing on the use under specific guidelines2. the cardholders' names, card details, and other information are minuted at school council, and any subsequent changes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine and document arrangements for safe and secure custody of the purchasing card.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrange for the monthly purchasing card statement/s to be attached to the relevant reports (CASES21F) and tabled at school council meetings.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that all Westpac Visa Card purchasing card procedures and controls are met.	

The financial delegation traditionally held by the principal to incur and pay for school related expenditure is extended to the **cardholder**. The financial delegation hierarchy should begin with the principal as authorisation officer, followed by appropriate delegation to each **cardholder**.

This ensures that:

- Financial accountability and responsibility for school transactions remains with the principal.
- Reporting requirements will enable the principal, as authorisation officer, to oversee all **cardholder** spending.

Where the principal is the **cardholder**, the school council president **must** be **the authorisation officer** for that card.

School Council cont.

DEECD and the school council exercise conditions to protect individuals and school resources, and ensure that effective internal controls are in place:

- The maximum monthly limit of \$15,000 placed on each purchasing card is mandated under Ministerial Guidelines and Directions 1-6 of 2008 [2.4(a)(i)]
- School council will ensure that each identified cardholder who agrees to be issued with a purchasing card, completes "Undertaking by Cardholder" proforma which forms part of Ministerial Guidelines and Directions 1-6 of 2008.
- A merchant category limit can be determined for each cardholder, varying from limits related to actual supplier/s to expenditure areas.
- An Annual Letter of Assurance regarding appropriate usage of the school purchasing card will be required under provisions of a "Finance Code of Practice" (Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the Financial Management Act 1994)

Summary of Specific Responsibilities of School Council

Checklist	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the introduction of a school purchasing card in conjunction with the school's current purchasing procedures and the potential benefits. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt and formally minute school procedures for the introduction and use of a school purchasing card/s in accordance with Ministerial Guidelines and Directions 1-6 of 2008. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint relevant personnel to ensure the efficient and effective administration of the school purchasing card. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate internal controls, security measures, cardholder register, relevant locally-determined category limits and school council reporting procedures to implement and monitor the operation of the school purchasing card. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and return the Annual Letter of Assurance document regarding appropriate school purchasing card usage, as initiated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. 	

3. Authorisation Officer

The authorisation officer is required to assist with and monitor the cardholder/s access to the card, as well as to approve purchasing card expenditure within school determined guidelines. Typically, the authorisation officer would take an active role in the briefing of approved cardholders prior to card issue, and deal with any queries or administrative matters.

The school purchase order must be used to place orders, regardless of the payment method. Adherence to current purchasing guidelines also remains in place. Where the expenditure is likely to be incurred by a cardholder on an excursion, camp or away from the school, pre-approval for expenditure to a pre-arranged upper limit should be in place prior to the event taking place.

Cardholders may maintain a “Cardholder’s Activity Report” to assist in reconciling the items listed on the monthly card statement along with supporting documentation. The reconciliation should be completed in sufficient time for pre-arranged monthly payment of the card balance.

The cardholder must sign the Westpac statement of transactions for audit requirements.

To maintain effective cash management for the school the authorisation officer will:

- exercise supervisory control over the cardholder’s transactions
- ensure compliance with Ministerial Guidelines and Directions 1-6 of 2008,
- adhere to relevant internal control procedures, and
- ensure all purchases of goods and services are substantiated and consistent with program budget expenditure.

Summary of Specific Responsibilities of Authorisation Officer

Checklist	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a briefing to approved cardholders before use of the school purchasing card. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the “Undertaking by Cardholder” document for the cardholder/s endorsement and signature for any subsequent changes to purchasing card procedures to each cardholder. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve purchasing card expenditure in accordance with DEECD guidelines and school policies. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer and monitor the operation of a purchasing card on a day-to-day basis, ensuring compliance with ministerial guidelines and school council policy. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon monthly submission of card statement and verified documentation by each cardholder, confirm the accuracy of the transactions, confirming expenditure against original school purchase order. Maintain appropriate security for all documentation. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that timely receipt and checking procedures complement the 'lead time' necessary for processing and payment of purchasing card statement. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate any report of loss, misuse or unauthorised transactions immediately. 	

4. Cardholder

The school council may authorise **School-Based Staff** to be issued with, and purchase goods, services, equipment or materials using a School Purchasing Card. Cardholders must be willing to accept increased responsibility and custodianship, by ensuring the card is used for legitimate school expenditure within program budget limits.

Each cardholder must complete an "Undertaking by Cardholder" application. Careful reading and acceptance of the card's stated terms and conditions prior to signing and submitting the application to the principal is critically important. The card is issued on the condition it will be used within the guidelines. Misuse of the card may result in proceedings being instigated against the cardholder under state legislation.

The use of the purchasing card does not affect the cardholder's personal credit standing, as the card is issued on behalf of the school council and all transactions incurred are strictly for school-related expenditure.

Authority to make any purchase is by a school order, which is approved by the authorisation officer/delegate. An added internal control recommendation for telephone orders using the purchasing card is to note on the order at the time, the date and name of person at the supplier end.

Cardholders are reminded that the card must be signed immediately and never be used for payment of personal expenses of any nature. Further, cardholders must not allow any unauthorised person to use the purchasing card. The cardholder will be held personally liable for any unauthorised use of the purchasing card, unless the unauthorised use is the result of the purchasing card being lost or stolen, or the result of fraud on the part of a third party.

The monthly purchasing card statement is forwarded by the school to each cardholder for signature, to verify individually raised transactions against the relevant documentation.

The cardholder returns the signed statement and supporting documentation to the authorising officer for signed approval. It is important this task is completed in a timely manner. The approved statement is then forwarded to the program administrator for processing.

Any disputed transactions must be reported to the authorisation officer (Principal) immediately, and a full explanation of the circumstances to the best of the cardholder's knowledge must be provided including documentation.

When goods ordered using the purchasing card are delivered to the school, the cardholder should be notified and the goods checked by him/her for accuracy against the purchase order, delivery note, etc.

It must always be remembered that the School Purchasing Cards are a purchasing facility, not a convenient alternative for employees who might otherwise have to seek reimbursement for minor work related expenses.

Summary of Specific Responsibilities of Cardholder

Checklist	✓
• Ensure compliance with the guidelines including: understanding of, and agreement to the terms and conditions	
• Cardholder to sign purchasing card immediately	
• not exceeding prearranged limits when order/s submitted for approval	
• adherence to Ministerial Guidelines and Directions 1 – 6, 2008, and to the Purchasing Guidelines.	
• use of the school purchasing card for school orders only	
• completion of supporting documentation for the school	
• reporting theft or loss of school purchasing card immediately to principal and bank	
• reporting any unauthorised transactions immediately to authorisation officer/principal	
• provision of security of the school purchasing card while in cardholder's possession	
• returning the card to the principal upon request	

5. Audit Requirements

The introduction of the school's purchasing card has some very important audit implications. Please ensure that the following is adhered to:

- The Undertaking by the Cardholder is completed fully. This includes;
 - name of cardholder
 - position
 - school council
 - principal
 - all of the fields within the body of the undertaking, which includes maximum limit, monthly limit, and transaction restrictions
 - dated
 - signature of cardholder, and
 - signature of principal.
- The Westpac bank statement must be signed by the cardholder and authorisation officer

These two documents must be filed securely for audit purposes.

6. Administrative Procedures

This section summarises the range of duties and tasks that support the efficient operation of the school's purchasing card. It provides information for school support staff with responsibility for CASES21 Finance data entry, general purchasing duties, reporting, remittance etc. Please refer to the Ministerial Guidelines and Directions 1-6 of 2008 for the proper administration of the card.

Introduction

The school purchasing card can be used for acquiring goods and services on the school's behalf. Some of the benefits are:

- cost and time efficient method to purchase, particularly for low value, high-volume items
- wide merchant acceptance of the Westpac Visa card
- streamlined business transactions with suppliers
- enhanced cash management potential
- potential reduction of petty cash claims by designated staff
- use during outside of school activities, particularly interstate and overseas camps.

Please note: A purchasing card is not intended to replace the existing purchasing practices. It is offered as an enhancement to current methods of payment for purchases. Therefore the procurement procedures, including quotations, purchase orders and payment thresholds must be followed.

A comprehensive briefing session will be provided to administrative staff as part of DEECD's purchasing card implementation strategy.

School Council/Cardholder Liability

The school purchasing card carries a liability for school council – not an individual liability for the cardholder. Therefore the school purchasing card does not impact on a cardholder's personal credit rating.

If the purchasing card is found to have been used by an unauthorised person, the school council is not liable for those costs, provided Westpac is immediately notified of its loss or theft of the card.

No Card Fees

Each school purchasing card held will not attract card fees as the card is exempt from government charges. DEECD schools will be provided with access to the web based IntelliLink platform for monthly and yearly reporting and management purposes.

School Purchasing Card Statement

All schools will receive a monthly statement per card. Westpac has an enhanced web-based reporting facility, Visa IntelliLink. Schools will be provided with access to this reporting function for monthly and yearly reporting and management purposes.

Settlement Arrangements

Details of the school's official account, for monthly debit of transactions and charges, will need to be provided. This becomes the authorisation for the direct debit ('sweep' from official account to purchasing card). The

settlement period is 10 calendar days from the end of the billing cycle, i.e. the school must finalise data and ensure sufficient funds are available in the official account, for the direct debit “sweep” of the closing credit balance by Westpac.

Routine Tasks

Additional Cardholder Request

Use a new Westpac Cardholder Application spreadsheet to record all additional card holders for the facility. A cover letter is required for the cardholder application list you create from the spreadsheet. This letter needs to be printed on your school letterhead and signed off by the existing Authorising Officer and Verifying Officer.

Prior to card collection, new cardholders must receive appropriate training provided by the authorisation officer/principal.

After successful application for the school purchasing card/s, Westpac will mail cards and supporting documentation to the school. Upon receipt, the cardholder should immediately sign the back of the card.

Financial Delegation

When a cardholder uses a purchasing card to acquire goods and services related to the school’s activities, the transaction signifies the cardholder’s authority to incur a liability on behalf of the school. Therefore, all cardholders must have financial delegation equal to the terms and conditions outlined in each cardholder’s “Undertaking by the Cardholder” document.

Delegations of Authority

All cardholders will require appropriate purchasing authority to activate their card. Reconciled monthly transactions to card statement and CASES21 reports will require the authorisation officer’s verification prior to the direct debit on the pre-arranged day of each month.

CASES21 Accounts Payable

The settlement must be paid through CASES21 Creditors module with Westpac established as a creditor and all invoices listed for payment, in the month, against the creditor. Refer to CASES21 Finance Guide section 3 Creditors. Administration staff should be available to assist with the required day-to-day financial recording and reporting onto CASES21 Finance. Responsibility for the individual transactions, verification, reconciliation, etc lies with specific personnel who must work within the pre-arranged settlement period to finalise their monthly statement/s.

Goods and Services Tax

The GST, arrangements which apply to all goods and services acquired by the school, also apply for purchasing card transactions.

To ensure that applicable GST input tax credits (ITCs) are correctly claimed, all purchasing card transactions for \$75 or more (\$75 exclusive of GST, or \$82.50 inclusive of GST or more) must be supported by a tax invoice from the supplier setting out the following details:

- the supplier’s identity (ie either a legal name of the supplier or a trading name registered in Australian Business Register) and the supplier’s ABN;
- a brief description of what is sold, including the quantity (if applicable) and the price of what is sold;
- the extent to which each sale is a taxable sale and the amount of GST payable for each sale – the GST can be shown separately or, if the GST to be paid is exactly one-eleventh of the total price, as a statement such as ‘Total price includes GST’; and
- the date the document is issued.

In addition, if the total price of the sale is at least \$1,000 (GST-inclusive), the recipient’s identity (ie the school’s legal name) or the recipient’s ABN (ie the school’s ABN) must be clearly shown on the tax invoice.

Accordingly, if you are purchasing any goods or services for your school for \$1,000 or more, you need to request a supplier to issue a tax invoice specifically to your school and this tax invoice must contain the name of the school (or its ABN) and all other information, as specified above.

Where the amount does not exceed \$75 (exclusive of GST, or \$82.50 inclusive of GST), it is recommended that a tax invoice be sought. However, if it is not possible to obtain a tax invoice, a receipt should be obtained from the supplier to support the transaction. ITCs can be claimed in respect of such transactions only if it is certain that the GST has been paid (no ITCs should be claimed in respect of GST-free supplies, eg in respect of fresh food that is GST-free)."

Fringe Benefits Tax

Consistent with current procedures, if the school purchasing card is used for transactions subject to FBT, cardholders will be required to provide information to enable the school to record fringe benefits provided to DEECD employees on the FBT Tracker. Where applicable, cardholders will be required to provide information to calculate the school's FBT liability in respect of fringe benefits provided to school council employees on the school level payroll.

Personal Identification Number (PIN)

Cardholders will need to know their Personal Identification Number (PIN) when using their card overseas. Some countries require cardholders to enter a PIN instead of signing for a purchase. If a cardholder does not know their PIN, please go to a Westpac branch and create a new PIN. From April 2012 a PIN will be required for all card transactions.

Card Usage Restrictions

Cardholders are required to adhere to the conditions of use for the purchasing card. General conditions include the following:

- card can be used only for school purchases
- cash advance withdrawals cannot be made with the card
- purchases of a value that exceed the transaction/monthly limit cannot be made
- all purchases must be within DEECD Purchasing Guidelines

Lost/Stolen Cards

Immediately upon identifying a lost or stolen school purchasing card, the cardholder is to advise Westpac to cancel the school purchasing card.

Contact Westpac Business & Corporate Cards team on 1300 650 107 (24 hours, 7 days).

The cardholder is also required to notify the principal that the card has been lost or stolen. Westpac will issue a replacement card. The new number of the replacement must be advised to the school council and school administrative officer for updating records.

Discrepancies with Goods and Services

Should there be any discrepancies after the initial transaction has taken place, the cardholder must contact the merchant and obtain a credit when:

- goods are returned
- overcharging occurs
- non-supply, or
- under-supply of ordered goods has occurred.

Any credit transactions must be supported by:

- copy of the original purchase order, and
- credit note/adjustment note from the merchant.

Disputed Transactions

The cardholder is responsible for the validation and reconciliation of transactions appearing on his/her monthly statement.

If a transaction is disputed, and it cannot be resolved by the cardholder with the merchant, the cardholder must advise the principal, in writing, of the dispute details. A copy of the statement upon which the disputed transaction/s appears should also be provided.

The cardholder will call the Westpac Business & Corporate Cards team on 1300 650 107 to lodge the disputed transaction. A reference number starting with DTN..... will be issued.

All follow-up inquiry calls regarding this dispute are to be made by the cardholder and should also be directed to the Westpac Business & Corporate Cards team on 1300 650 107.

The cardholder will be required to provide the following information:

- Cardholder's Name
- Card Number
- School Name
- Facility ID Number
- DTN number

All Disputed Transactions need to be lodged within 90 days of the Transaction date, otherwise the Westpac Business & Corporate Cards team are unable to assist with identifying the transaction.

While disputed transactions are being investigated, the monthly account "sweep" will continue to include all relevant card transactions. Upon resolution of a disputed transaction, if a credit is to be given, this will appear on the monthly card statement requiring an adjustment to CASES21 Finance.

Cardholder Register

Details of all cardholders are to be recorded in the school's cardholder register maintained by the business manager/administration officer and minuted at school council meetings. Details should include:

- name, position and location of cardholder
- completed and signed "Undertaking by Cardholder" notation
- card number (last four digits)
- issue date and expiry date
- amendments to cardholder details
- closure date of cardholder account

Cardholder Termination

If a cardholder ceases to operate a school purchasing card the following actions must be initiated:

- Cardholder is responsible for cancelling any automatic debit payments e.g. subscriptions.
- The authorisation officer destroys the card and advises the school council and administration officer/s to close the cardholder account and update the Purchasing Cardholder Register.
- Westpac is advised, in writing to close the cardholder account. The correspondence should include confirmation that the school purchasing card has been destroyed, and be endorsed by the authorisation officer.

7. Checklists for School Purchasing Card Program

	Applying for a School Purchasing Card facility
	Principals and business managers are required to attend a Schools Purchasing Card Briefing, prior to the facility initially being approved by School Council.
	School Council consider the introduction of a school purchasing card in conjunction with the school's current purchasing procedures and the potential benefits.
	School Council adopt and formally minute school procedures for the introduction and use of a school purchasing card/s in accordance with Ministerial Guidelines and Directions 1-6 of 2008.
	School Council approve relevant personnel to ensure the efficient and effective administration of the school purchasing card program.
	School Council ensure adequate internal controls, security measures, cardholder register, relevant locally-determined category limits and school council reporting procedures to implement and monitor the operation of the school purchasing card.
	All applications must have the school address as the postal address. The cardholder's personal mailing address must NOT be used.

	Ongoing administration of the School Purchasing Card program
	Administration officer ensures the efficient and effective administration of the school purchasing card.
	All approved card holders receive a briefing that explains the use of the card and the specific guidelines
	All cardholders are to sign the 'Undertaking of Cardholder' form. This is to be retained for audit.
	All cardholders must be recorded on the Schools Cardholder Register.
	School principal is to complete and return the Annual Letter of Assurance document certifying the appropriate school purchasing card usage, in accordance with DEECD Purchasing Guidelines. The Annual Letter of Assurance will be distributed by DEECD Financial Services Division for reporting as at 30 June each Financial Year

	<p align="center">Ongoing Card Management and Facility Administration</p>
	<p>Authorising Officers can contact the Westpac Victorian Client Service Team (phone and email detailed in the contacts section) to request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New cardholder application spreadsheet, • modify limits to existing cards, • cancellation of cards • request replacement for damaged cards • name changes (documentation must be provided e.g. Marriage Certificate, Deed Poll or Decree Nisi), before a new card is issued in the new name. <p>All requests must state the cardholder's name and card number</p>
	<p>Authorising Officers can contact the Westpac Victorian Client Service team to request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modifications to the facility (School name or address), • amendment to existing Authorised Signatories and/or Verifying Officers, and to advise the change of account number for the School Council Official bank account direct debit sweep.

	<p align="center">Cancellation of Cards and Facilities</p>
	<p>A Purchasing Card cancellation form must be completed and signed off by the Authorised Officers and forwarded to Westpac Victorian Government Client Service Team when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a cardholder leaves the school • the card is no longer required by the nominated cardholder <p>Cancellations must be recorded in the School Cardholder Register and the card destroyed.</p> <p>The School Purchasing Card facility must be cancelled if the school no longer requires cards to be used in the school.</p>

8. Contacts

Westpac Contacts

For all enquiries regarding new purchasing card facilities, applications for new cardholders, maintenance for existing cards (change to limits, cancellation of cards) contact:

Westpac Victorian Government Client Service Team

Tel: 03 9608 3975

Fax: 03 8668 1116

Email: vicclientservice@westpac.com.au

Lost/Stolen Cards – Emergency Cancellation

To report lost or stolen cards please contact 1300 650 107 (24 hour telephone line)

Replacement of damaged cards

Please contact 1300 650 107 a replacement card will be issued within the agreed service level standards and despatched accordingly.

Disputed Transactions

Once the disputed transaction has been lodged all follow-up enquiries will be directed to Westpac Business & Corporate Cards team on 1300 650 107.

Postal address for Westpac Victorian Government Client Service Team

Level 10,

360 Collins Street

Melbourne VIC 3000

Telephone: 03 9608 3975

Fax: 03 8668 1116

Email: vicclientservice@westpac.com.au

DEECD Contacts

School Purchasing Card program queries:

- email: schoolspurchasingcard@edumail.vic.gov.au
- website: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/financial/schoolcard.htm>

CASES21 queries

- DEECD Service Desk: 1800 641 943
- Service Gateway: <http://servicedesk.education.vic.gov.au/>

9. Glossary of Terms

Administration Officer	The school employee responsible for managing purchasing card tasks
Accounting Program	Software approved by DEECD to record transactions resulting from school purchasing card usage, and from which relevant reports are generated.
Authorisation Officer	A person other than a cardholder who is nominated by the school council to authorise and approve expenditure using the school purchasing card the authorisation officer is usually the principal.
Authorised Signatories	Those officers authorised to approve additions and amendments to the school purchasing card (and registered with the financial institution issuing the card/s. Usually the principal
Cardholder	A school-based employee who has been approved by School Council to be issued with a school purchasing card
Card(holder) Parameters	Limits applied to individual purchasing cards regarding transaction value, monthly credit limit and merchant category links/blocks.
Cardholders Activity Report	An optional register retained by the cardholder for manually entering all card transactions in any particular billing period, and which can be used in the card statement reconciliation process.
Constituting Orders	The legislative framework under which all school councils are governed
Certificate of Identity	The formal confirmation of the identity of a purchasing card applicant, signed by a verifying officer of the purchasing card.
Conditions of Use	The conditions applied by the school and Westpac to use the purchasing card. Includes allowed/disallowed transactions and cardholder responsibilities.
Credit Limit (Monthly)	The maximum value of all transactions debited to a particular purchasing card within the month. Cardholders are not allowed to exceed this credit limit at any point during the month.
DEECD	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
DTF	Department of Treasury and Finance
Financial Delegation	Official approval to incur transaction expenditure to a preset upper limit.
Financial Institution	The body that the State of Victoria has entered into an agreement for the provision of purchasing card facilities to the school councils of all state schools
IntelliLink	Web based platform for monthly and yearly reporting and management purposes.
Letter of Assurance	Annual Letter of Assurance document regarding school purchasing card usage is in accordance with the General Government Purchasing Guidelines, issued by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development each financial year.
Merchant	Any vendor/supplier who accepts the purchasing card as payment for purchases made.
Merchant Category Code	Codes assigned by the International Standards Association (ISO) to identify industry types.
Merchant Category Group	Groupings of merchants and the related expenditure types, which can be linked to, or blocked from, an individual purchasing card.
PIN	Personal Identification Number

Glossary of Terms cont.

Point of Contact	A Point of Contact has no authority to issue cards or change cardholders limits, but is the contact person in the school to receive information from Westpac, about the purchasing card facility.
Purchasing Card	The Westpac Visa card issued to approved cardholder/s for the purpose of procuring official goods or services on behalf of the school.
Reporting/Billing Cycle	The monthly cycle for the reporting/billing arrangements of the purchasing card.
Secretary	Secretary of Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Settlement	The process of paying the card provider the balance owed as a result of transactions in a given reporting/billing cycle.
Statement Date	Date on which the cardholder statement is produced
Sweep Account	Term used to describe a process whereby the school's official account is debited by the outstanding purchasing card statement balance at the end of each monthly billing cycle via an automatic "sweep" initiated by Westpac.
Transaction Limit	The maximum value of a single transaction that may be debited to a particular purchasing card.
Undertaking by Cardholder	Formal document completed and signed by cardholder and principal prior to card issue, which outlines the conditions, terms and obligations that the cardholder agrees to in relation to his/her usage of the purchasing card
Verifying Officer	The verifying officer can verify the identity of a cardholder to avoid the need for individual cardholders to provide identity at the local bank branches.
Victorian General Government Purchasing Card Guidelines	Document outlining the rules and government purchasing procedures to be followed in relation to the purchasing card guidelines (VGGPCG) use and administration of the VGGPC.
Westpac	Westpac Banking Corporation.