



AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY OF AEROSPACE MEDICINE

Incorporated
ABN 50 713 393 083

12 December 2005

The Honourable Warren Truss
Deputy Leader of the Nationals
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Truss

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ASAM). Aviation medicine has an important role to play in air transport operations, and ASAM is the professional body that represents more than 800 medical practitioners and other specialists who look after the medical needs and certification of aviators in this country. Founded in 1949 as a Special Group on Aviation Medicine of the British Medical Association of Australia, the Society became the Aviation Medical Society of Australia and New Zealand in 1978, and finally the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine in 2003. The objects of the Society were then, and remain today:

- the cultivation and promotion of aerospace medicine and related disciplines,
- the provision of an authoritative body of opinion in relation to aerospace medicine,

At our recent annual general meeting, the Society expressed its concern over the situation that exists in the staffing of the Aviation Medicine Section within CASA. For nearly two years the position of Principal Medical Officer (PMO) has been vacant, and our membership is concerned about the continued lack of specialist medical supervision and direction within this seldom visible but essential and important section of CASA. Our Society considers that CASA has failed to meet its responsibilities as a regulator by allowing this position to remain vacant for such a long period, and concludes that CASA fails to appreciate the contribution that aeromedical certification makes towards flight safety.

I acknowledge that the vacancy was finally advertised in October, and our Society trusts that an appropriately qualified and aviation medicine experienced medical practitioner will be appointed in due course. We seek your support to ensure that this appointment is announced without undue delay, and the Aviation Medicine Section is appropriately resourced, to ensure a return to the provision of an efficient and best practice aeromedical certification process.

Yours sincerely
Dr Gordon G. Cable
MB BS DA_vMed MRAeS
President

P O Box 4022 Balwyn VIC 3103
Tel: 03 9899 1686 Fax: 03 9890 2353
Email: fleminga@bigpond.net.au
www.asam.org.au