



AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY OF AEROSPACE MEDICINE

Incorporated
ABN 50 713 393 083

16 January 2006

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

Dear Mr Truss

I previously wrote to you in December last year expressing the concerns of our Society regarding the long-standing vacancy of the Principal Medical Officer position in the Aviation Medicine Section at CASA. Now, another issue needs to be brought to your attention that affects most Designated Aviation Medical Examiners (DAMEs).

CASA sent an e-mail to DAMEs on 16 December 2005 notifying them that CASA was introducing an administration fee of \$130.00 for aviation medical assessments conducted after 1 January 2006. DAMEs were advised that if medical assessments were submitted to CASA electronically, the applicant would remit the fee directly to CASA. However, if the medical was submitted using paper-based medical forms, the DAME was required to collect the fee and forward it to CASA with the medical report.

Our Society has a number of issues with this proposal. Firstly, an e-mail from a clerk appears to be a totally inappropriate method of communicating such a significant change in policy by a Government department.

Secondly, in its e-mail, CASA stated, "Industry was involved in the consultation on the fees and was notified of the proposed changes through various media." Contrary to that assertion, ASAM has no record of any such consultation with CASA. As the principal organisation representing DAMEs, our Society considers that it is appropriate that it be consulted on such proposals.

Thirdly, and I am sure you agree, our Society considers that it is totally inappropriate for medical practitioners to collect revenue on behalf of CASA.

Finally, given that CASA stated that this fee was being introduced based on the Government's policy of cost recovery for services, our Society seeks your assurance that any revenue generated will only be used to resource the Aviation Medicine Section to ensure the provision of an efficient and best practice aeromedical certification process.

Yours sincerely
Dr Gordon G. Cable
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President

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