

19 March 2013

The Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Secretary,

**Aviation Accident Investigation
The ditching of Pel Air VH-NGA near Norfolk Island on 18 November 2009**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this short submission. The Royal Flying Doctor Service applauds the inquiry into this incident which we note arose during the course of an aeromedical operation. We welcome this interest and opportunity to improve aviation safety particularly in the area of aeromedical operations.

As the Committee may be aware, the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia provides aeromedical, general health and dental services to across most of remote, rural and regional Australia. In a typical year we manage over 230,000 patient contacts including over 40,000 aeromedical evacuations. Of these, 5,000 are emergency "primary evacuations" from remote locations beyond the reach of normal medical infrastructure. In support of our health services, we operate 61 single and twin engine turboprop small aircraft flying over 25 million kilometres and 70,000 landings each year.

Our operations extend to some of Australia's most remote aviation environments and the Royal Flying Doctor Service prosecutes the highest standards of safety and operational procedure applicable to current aeromedical regulations.

We feel the current inquiry combined with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority regulatory review provides a welcome opportunity to improve the way in which the regulatory system relates to aeromedical operations.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service would welcome the opportunity to assist in the development and implementation of regulations that will improve safety in aeromedical operations while maintaining emergency and health services to the bush.

Yours sincerely


National Chief Executive Officer