

Rural And Regional Affairs And Transport

Inquiry into the current state of Australia's general aviation industry,
with particular reference to aviation in rural, regional and remote Australia

ANSWER TO WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

IQ21-000161

Division/Agency: DIV - International Aviation Technology and Services

Topic: CASA – Costs awarded to Angel Flight

Proof Hansard Page: Written (15 December 2021)

Senator Susan McDonald asked:

CHAIR: I'm going to ask you one last question on Angel Flight, because we don't have all day, and this is about general aviation. How much are the costs that you asked to the courts to award to Angel Flight? Ms Spence: I'm sorry; unless Dr Aleck knows, I'll have to take that on notice. I'll try to get that to you tomorrow, but I just don't have that. CHAIR: I suspect that Dr Aleck might. Dr Aleck: Chair, [inaudible] the dollar amount. It wasn't so much a question that we asked for it; it was a question of what the court [inaudible] and [inaudible] we can provide specific [inaudible]—Senator STERLE: You have that look of frustration, Chair. CHAIR: I do. I am really frustrated that, having heard the evidence this afternoon, Dr Aleck didn't come prepared for questions about Angel Flight, about the costs. He is the head of the legal team. He would have been directing the proceedings. I imagine that he had to sign off on what the requests to the courts were and then what the courts decided. I would be fascinated to know what amount you asked the court to award and then what the court did award. I cannot believe, Dr Aleck, that you do not know the answers to this question. I appreciate that Ms Spence is covering for you, but I am very, very unhappy with the horrible abuse of your position with CASA. It's not right. For regional people [inaudible] general aviation, they are terrified of what you do to people. Ms Spence: Obviously we don't agree with the fundamental assumption there, that we're out to get industry. We have made very clear that there are a number of activities underway to support general aviation, and we are committed to working with the sector to [inaudible] some of the issues that have been raised over the previous year. [...] Senator STERLE: The best thing we can do here, as I think the chair was saying, is that it's up to Mrs Pagani to supply evidence to the contrary. We can't push that any further here until we see what that was. Now, seriously, Mr Aleck, just tell the chair how much you put in; tell the chair how much you got awarded. You know darn well. Come on. Dr Aleck: I don't have those [inaudible] I can provide information today. Ms Spence: We'll start asking some questions and see if we can give you an answer today. Perhaps Dr Aleck can check with the team and try to get an answer before we finish today.

Answer:

On 10 December 2021 the Director of Aviation Safety and Chief Executive Officer of CASA, Ms Pip Spence PSM wrote to the Chair, Senator Susan McDonald providing the requested information on the costs awarded by the Federal Court to CASA in connection with the proceedings instigated by Angel Flight Australia.