

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023 - 2024

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 80

Departmental Question Number: SQ23-004862

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Hansard Reference: Written (31 October 2023)

Topic: CASA - Follow up questions on evidence provided during 23 October 2023 Estimates Hearing

Senator David Fawcett asked:

Providing evidence during Estimate (23 Oct 23) Dr Manderson discussed:

1. an international group of “expert pilots and flying instructors”.
 - a. How many people were in the group?
 - b. How were the members of the group selected?
 - c. How many members of the group had recent (within the past 12 months) industry flying operations experience as CPL or ATPL qualified pilots?
 - d. How many members of the group had recent (within the past 12 months) industry experience as a flying instructor, flight examiner, approved testing officer or equivalent?
 - e. How many members of the group were CASA Flying Operations Inspectors?
 - f. How many members of the group were/are employees of CASA?
2. a meeting of colleagues from FAA, NZ, US DoD and ICAO.
 - a. How many of these colleagues had expertise in aviation medicine or academic/clinical fields related to the colour perception standard?
 - b. How many of these colleagues had expertise in aviation flying operations or flight examiners/instructors or equivalent?
3. that no medical certificates had been denied since the decision to review the operational test. This evidence was provided during a line of questions in respect of whether CASA would provide an “unrestricted medical certificate” to a candidate who has passed an operational test. While assertion that no medical certificates had been denied is technically correct, it is not accurate in the context of the Estimates hearing and evidence of restrictions being applied to candidates who have passed the operational test.
 - a. How many CVD candidates have been issued an unrestricted medical certificate since the OCVA operational test was announced by Mr Carmody??
 - b. How many CVD candidates have been issued an unrestricted medical certificates since the decision to review the operational test?
 - c. How many CVD candidates have been issued a medical certificate containing CVD related restrictions since the decision to review the operational test?
 - d. On what day and by what means did CASA make a public statement that the changes announced by Mr Carmody (2020) relating to CVD testing options and outcomes under CASR 67.150 (6)(c) were no longer going to be implemented / accepted by CASA AVMED?

e. What guidance was provided to DAMEs and CASA AVMED staff relating to changes CASA would implement during this period?

Answer:

1.
 - a. 17 people including 10 pilots.
 - b. The members were selected based on their demonstrated expertise in commercial aviation as well as clinical aerospace medicine, regulatory aerospace medicine and visual function in operational aviation settings. Individuals were identified through consultation with international aviation regulators regarding their sources of expert advice on visual performance in aviation and aeromedical risk assessment for aviation regulatory authorities.
 - c. 4.
 - d. At least 3.
 - e. 2.
 - f. 4.
2.
 - a. 14.
 - b. 10.
3.
 - a. 29.
 - b. No applicants completed the medical assessment process during that period. Two applicants are completing operational testing in late 2023.
 - c. At least 2 (currently going through testing).
 - d. No announcement was made regarding how Colour Vision Deficiency (CVD) testing options and outcomes were to be used because the implementation of the policy has remained the same as a case-by-case individual assessment.
 - e. Applications for medical certificates would be assessed on an individual, case-by-case basis to issue certificates and recommend medical and operational testing options based on each pilot's situation and requirements.