



The Hon. Suzanne Mary Ellery MLC  
Minister for Education and Training  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dumas House,  
2 Havelock Street  
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Minister,

**RE: Aviation Australia Part 147 MTO/RTO Western Australia VET funding**

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) is a not-for-profit organisation formed in 1980 as the Regional Airlines Association of Australia to protect, represent and promote the combined interests of its regional airline members and regional aviation throughout Australia.

RAAA members operate in all States and Territories and include airlines, airports, freight companies, engineering and flight training companies, finance and insurance companies and government entities. Many of RAAA's members operate successful and growing businesses providing employment and economic sustainability within regional and remote areas of Australia.

As detailed in our Constitution, the aim of the Association is to support its members by working with Government, the regulatory authority, and the community, to promote the maintenance of a safe and viable regional aviation industry.

Aviation Australia is a member of the RAAA and we fully support their application to the Western Australian Government to establish a Western Australian RTO/MTO to train apprentices and engineers in Western Australia.

Australian Aircraft may only be maintained by suitably qualified and experienced Licenced Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (LAMEs). LAMEs are required to hold a national licence issued by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). Due to various legislative and education standards inconsistencies the engineering training framework has all but collapsed in this country.

In 2007 there were several aviation engineer training providers including 6 major facilities, and in 2017 there are only 4 approved to conduct training.

RAAA members including Alliance Airlines and Royal Flying Doctors Services (WA Operations) have expressed their significant concerns at the overall reduction of apprentices, of which training is a significant impediment. With no MTO organisations in Western Australia, regional aviation organisations are unable to support the local community and provide jobs in-house, rather must outsource from the marketplace – a detractor for the viability of jobs and training in regional and rural areas of Australia.

It is essential that engineers are trained in an RTO that also holds a CASA, CASR Part 147 approval as a Maintenance Training Organisation (MTO). There are currently no RTO's in Western Australia that hold a CASR Part 147 approval.

Aviation Australia can provide apprentices and engineers with training solutions that offer our members flexibility and training outcomes superior to alternate RTO's; Aviation Australia is the Australian aviation industry exemplar.



The RAAA strongly supports Aviation Australia and their application for VET funding in Western Australia. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MH", is positioned below the text "Yours faithfully,".

Mike Higgins  
Chief Executive Officer  
Regional Aviation Association of Australia