



## RAAA WELCOMES INCREASE IN PILOT TRAINING LOANS

4 April 2019

“The recent announcement by Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Senator Michaelia Cash that Vet Student Loans are to be increased from \$104,000 to \$150,000 is a very welcome initiative for the aviation industry”, according to Mr Mike Higgins, CEO of the Regional Aviation Association of Australia. “For the first time this enables student pilots from all walks of life to undertake the full gamut of training required to become an airline pilot”. Mr Higgins went on to say, “It is particularly encouraging to see both Ministers working together to tackle the one thing holding back equal opportunity for all aspiring pilots”.

Mr Higgins said “It is very gratifying to have two Government departments working so well together to address the urgent issue of incentives for pilot training”. Mr Higgins then went on to encourage the government to examine the issue of a looming aircraft maintenance engineering shortage, which is expected to have an even larger negative impact on the aviation industry than the current pilot shortage.

The RAAA represents aviation across Australia. We have around 100 members and our AOC members directly employ over 2,500 Australians, many in regional areas. On an annual basis, the RAAA’s AOC members jointly turnover more than \$1.5b, carry well in excess of 2 million passengers and move over 23 million kilograms of freight.

### Media Enquiries:

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