

AVIATION ACCESS WORKING GROUP

SUMMARY RECORD: MEETING 5, 3 SEPTEMBER 2009

- The Chair opened the meeting at 10.40 and apologised for being unable to chair the previous meeting due to illness. An attendance list can be found at **Attachment A**. Apologies were noted.
- The Department outlined the progress on the draft proposal for the self-regulatory initiative discussed at the previous meeting and members noted the consultation undertaken with stakeholders.
- During consultation, it became apparent that it would be appropriate for the Board of Airline Representatives of Australia (BARA) to be represented on the AAWG. It was agreed that the Chair would write to BARA and proffer an invitation for membership.
- The Chair requested confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting and no objections were raised. Members briefly reviewed the outstanding action items from the previous meeting.
- A representative of the Office of Transport Security Division of the Department (OTS) noted that the next meeting of the Aviation Security Advisory Forum was scheduled for 15 October 2009 and the ongoing issue of designated drop-off points at the front of terminals could be raised. A representative of the Aviation and Airports Division will attend and address the meeting on behalf of the AAWG.
- The Chair reminded members that the National Aviation Policy White Paper was due to be released before Christmas and that he envisaged it would include a section on the work of the AAWG. Members asked what they should expect and the Chair indicated it would likely outline the achievements and progress of the AAWG and its future direction.
- A representative of the Infrastructure and Surface Transport Policy Division of the Department (ISTP) updated members on the status of the Transport Standards Review. Final comments have been received from the Office of Best Practice Regulation and the consultant has sent the report of the Review for final editing. The Review was expected to be submitted to the Attorney-General's Department this month and then to Minister Albanese's office for consideration. The government response to the final report will be at the discretion of the Attorney-General and the Minister.
- Members questioned why the Review has been delayed for so long. ISTP advised this was due to the necessity for the Office of Best Practice Regulation to undertake a cost benefit analysis of the regulatory impact, which had delayed the process.
- The OTS representative advised that he and his colleagues had met with Guide Dogs QLD and Brisbane Airport Corporation to discuss options for the screening of assistance animals. OTS is currently reviewing the Methods and Techniques and Equipment to be used for Screening Notice and will consult with stakeholders on improvements to the current guidance provided to industry for the screening of assistance animals. OTS intends

to complete the process by the end of the calendar year and will request input from disability advocates on AAWG, along with other relevant stakeholders.

- The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) confirmed that Civil Aviation Order 20.16.3 was due to be considered for prescription under Section 47 of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* by the Executive Council on 7 September 2009. The Department of Infrastructure advised it had approached CASA about amending Civil Aviation Order 20.11, which still contained the outdated term 'handicapped persons'. CASA has agreed to amend the CAO in the near future.
- AGD reported that it still intended to assist with streamlining the process of the carriage of assistance animals, but had not yet settled on the most effective ways to achieve this end. AGD intends to consult with peak disability groups to explore the options, but the accreditation of recognised guide dog training organisations was likely to be recommended. It was recognised that only aviation safety legislation would specifically deal with the carriage of assistance animals in an aircraft cabin, so CASA would be involved in such legislative amendments, in addition to AGD. Airlines supported a strong regulatory approach to this issue, stating concerns that neither they, nor CASA, had the expertise required to evaluate the training levels of assistance animals for carriage in the aircraft cabin.
- CASA advised it intends to release a Civil Aviation Advisory Publication (CAAP) providing instruction to airline operators on the most appropriate method of providing the individual pre-flight safety briefing to passengers with disabilities. Consultation with industry and disability advocates will continue in preparation for drafting the CAAP.
- Members agreed to schedule the next meeting for 12 November 2009. [This was subsequently been brought forward to 5 November 2009.] The meeting closed at 14:30.

ATTACHMENT A

ATTENDANCE – MEETING 5, 3 SEPTEMBER 2009

Australian Airports Association
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
Deafness Forum of Australia
National Disability Services
Qantas
Regional Aviation Association of Australia
Attorney-General's Department
Civil Aviation Safety Authority
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Aviation and Airports, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Infrastructure and Surface Transport Policy, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Office of Transport Security, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Apologies

Australian Human Rights Commission
Flight Safety Foundation
Physical Disability Australia
Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Regional Express
Tiger Airways
Virgin Blue