

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

IQ21-000162

Division/Agency: DIV - International Aviation Technology and Services

Topic: CASA – Information provided to CEO in relation to Angel Flight case

Proof Hansard Page: Written (15 December 2021)

Senator Susan McDonald asked:

CHAIR: Dr Aleck, did you inform the CEO that the judge in that most recent case with Angel Flight had argued a desire to have the CEO of CASA arrested as a result of CASA frustrating the court by failing to provide subpoena evidence?

Dr Aleck: I wasn't aware of that, so I didn't advise anybody of that.

Ms Spence: When this was raised with us, I think it had been brought to my attention that we couldn't find the reference that had been provided. We'll follow up again.

Dr Aleck: Other than the [inaudible]

Ms Spence: As far as I'm aware there is no mention of an arrest at this point in time.

CHAIR: Perhaps it was not Angel Flight; perhaps it was another CASA case.

Ms Spence: I think it was another CASA case. [inaudible] in Campbelltown, so that was raised previously. We couldn't find the transcript that [inaudible], but in light of the evidence we'll look again.

CHAIR: I guess the CASA legal team is so busy that they can't recall all of the cases that they're involved with. That would be a reasonable question, Dr Aleck?

Dr Aleck: It is a busy team, Senator, but if we had been advised authoritatively that [inaudible] or a subpoena was going to be issued to our CEO, I assure you we would have acted on it.

CHAIR: What about if it was just an expression from the judge and his frustration at CASA's slowness to provide documentation?

Dr Aleck: I can't speculate on what a judge or may not [inaudible] but judges oftentimes express their feelings in ways that don't [inaudible] the legal circumstances that are involved. We are looking into [inaudible] the basis of that claim might have been, and that statement might have been, about what it concerned, but nothing came to us in a formal way.

Ms Spence: As I said, as soon as it was raised with me some weeks or months ago, I raised it. No evidence could be found to support the comment, but we will go back and get the legal team to check further.

CHAIR: I have looked back, and it was the Andy Pascoe case. That might save you a bit of time looking for it. I guess what we're landing on is this issue of culture with CASA. You're going to provide, on notice, the list of initiatives that you are currently addressing to assist general aviation.

Answer:

CASA provided the answer to this question in its second supplementary submission to the Inquiry submitted on 6 January 2022.