

Answer to a written question on notice by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, asked by Senator Gichuhi on 12 February 2018; received 14 February 2018.

In the ASQA submission to the Senate Inquiry into TAFE SA, ASQA's state's that CASA conducted an audit and found serious non-compliances leading to TAFE SA to suspend aircraft maintenance engineers training. Can CASA outline to the Senate Inquiry what were the serious non-compliance issues?

On 22 February 2017 CASA received information from industry that TAFE SA conducted theoretical training in Perth and Brisbane. Both these locations had not been approved by CASA, nor were they documented within the TAFE SA Maintenance Training Organisation Exposition which is the high level manual approved by CASA for aviation technical training. As a result of these concerns, on 23 February 2017 CASA re-scheduled the surveillance (audit) activity, originally planned for April 2017, to 14-16 March 2017. CASA subsequently conducted a surveillance activity on location at the Parafield Campus of TAFE SA, during which 18 serious and 9 less serious non-compliances to regulatory requirements were identified across the following areas:

- All student records that were sampled were identified to be incomplete;
- Examinations that were conducted did not meet the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* Part 66 Manual of Standards minimum requirements;
- TAFE SA records showed evidence that some students had not completed the required theoretical examinations necessary for an initial licence to be issued by CASA;
- It was identified during the surveillance activity that the course that allows for the removal of limitations from Part 66 licences did not meet the required training and assessment standards;
- Independent audits previously conducted by the TAFE SA Quality department were found to be incomplete and identified deficiencies had not been adequately addressed or rectified; and
- TAFE SA Recognition of Prior Learning procedures were not followed by the Aviation Campus at Parafield and outcomes were not documented and or did not meet required standards.

Has CASA encountered similar serious non-compliance issues with other TAFEs who have courses relevant to CASA ?

No. In auditing Maintenance Training Organisations (including those operating within a TAFE environment), CASA does observe non-compliances but typically these are in a defined category such as record keeping, and not across a broad range of categories as was the case with TAFE SA.