

25th September 2024

**RE: Senate inquiry into Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity) Bill
2024**

Dear committee,

I am the Managing Director of Airlines of Tasmania Pty Ltd, trading as Par Avion, a general aviation business based at Hobart/Cambridge Aerodrome, which we own and operate. Since our establishment in 1978, we have engaged in various operations, including scheduled public transport, tourism, and flying training.

We have been a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) since 2013 and hold both VET Student Loans and CRICOS approvals. I must acknowledge that we are a minor player in the international student sector, with our published numbers indicating only 1-2 students per year post-COVID.

However, prior to the pandemic, we were actively involved in the international student market. Alongside trade visits to Southeast Asia and China with the Tasmanian Government's Department of State Growth, I participated in several trade missions to Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and China, where I engaged with various organisations about flying training in Tasmania, receiving positive feedback.

Before COVID, we secured approval from the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia to issue Commercial Pilot Licences for AirAsia cadets and were in advanced discussions to bring pilot cadets to Tasmania for long-term training. My company has invested thousands of dollars in travel with the genuine intention of attracting international students for flying training.

Therefore, receiving notification via email that our CRICOS capacity is limited to just one student per year was nothing short of astounding.

I struggle to understand the justification for what appears to be "management by spreadsheet" by a government department. I question how this bureaucratic decision has taken into account the impact on individual organisations. It seems that had I had zero students in the past two years, I would be permitted to enrol 30 students, whereas my quota, based on historical data, results in a cap of just one.

There is no avenue for appeal, and I have no clarity on how to increase this number.

Having recently passed an ASQA audit, only to receive a bill for \$11,875 for the audit's cost, we are now left questioning the value of maintaining our CRICOS approval—only to learn weeks later that we can accept just one student. This situation is incredibly concerning.

I appreciate the committee's attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Shannon Wells
Managing Director