

MEMORANDUM



TO: JOHN GEORGE
FROM: ROD ANDERSON
DATE: 25 NOVEMBER 2003
SUBJECT: STAND DOWN OF AVIATION SECURITY OFFICER



Dear John,

On 07 October 2003, a Group 4 Securitas, security officer, Malcolm Williams assigned to the QANTAS Domestic Terminal was stood down for failing to comply with instructions. The officer who had over 7 years experience as a passenger screener was stationed at the sterile area exit doors and was instructed to prevent persons entering the sterile area through these doors. This duty was part of the normal daily requirements of this screening point and all officers on duty at the screening point rotated through this position and remained at this station for approximately 20 minutes at a time.

The officer who was stood down allowed a woman and a child to walk through these doors and enter the sterile area. Fortunately, an Australian Protective Service officer noticed the breach and caught the woman and child before they could enter the terminal area proper. The offenders were removed immediately from the sterile area by the APS officer and directed back through the screening point. The entire incident was captured on CCTV.

As a result, the officer who allowed the breach was stood down and subsequently dismissed by the QLD Divisional Manager Training and Resources. Subsequently an approach was made to me based on plea in mitigation by the Secretary of the ALHMWU to review the dismissal. Upon review I accepted the plea and re-instated the officer on the condition that he could not work at any airport site for a minimum of 12 months.

The breach by the officer in question was a serious neglect of duty and if the incident had not been identified by the APS officer, the entire Domestic Terminal building would have had to been evacuated and re-sterilised. Such action would have taken considerable time and caused immeasurable delays to aircraft timetables.

Please be aware that at all times there was full and open dialogue with the ALHMWU throughout the entire process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rod Anderson".

ROD ANDERSON
Regional General Manager – QLD/NT