

**Question on notice no. 284**

**Portfolio question number: SQ23-005137**

**2023-24 Supplementary Budget estimates**

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Portfolio**

**Senator Bridget McKenzie:** asked the Airservices Australia on 2 November 2023—

(1. In terms of air traffic controllers taking sick leave, what is the latest data you have on this?

2. What does ASA do to manage the high level of sick day leave? My understanding is that management suggests air traffic controllers actively discourage sick days being taken. What about those people who aren't taking sick leave at all? What is the psychological-social pressures on those that never take sick leave?

**Answer —**

Please find answer attached

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023 - 2024

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 284

Departmental Question Number: SQ23-005137

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Airservices Australia

Hansard Reference: Written (02 November 2023)

Topic: AIRSERVICES - Air Traffic Controllers taking sick leave

Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:

1. In terms of air traffic controllers taking sick leave, what is the latest data you have on this?
2. What does ASA do to manage the high level of sick day leave? My understanding is that management suggests air traffic controllers actively discourage sick days being taken. What about those people who aren't taking sick leave at all? What is the psychological—social pressures on those that never take sick leave?

Answer:

1. Chart 1 below shows the trend in sick leave per full time equivalent per month since July 2022.
2. Under the enterprise agreement, air traffic controllers are entitled to access sick leave as required due to the operational nature of their work. Airservices does not discourage access to sick leave and actively addresses both short-term and long-term absences in accordance with the provisions in the enterprise agreement which is to explore alternative duties via non-operational roles during periods of convalescence where required.

Chart 1 – Sick leave trend since July 2022, per full time equivalent, per month.

