

**Question on notice no. 287**

**Portfolio question number: SQ23-005140**

**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. The RIS (the Retirement Incentive Scheme 2021) was clearly a disaster because there was no follow up plan, what is ASA doing to get qualified, ready-for-work ATCs to close the staff shortages that are creating havoc with flights particularly in regional Australia?

2. What actions are you considering to re-deploy recently RIsEd Air Traffic Controllers who could with a short retraining period, be re-engaged?

3. Surely this would be a quicker way of getting more people with a Yellow Book rather than waiting to train up new recruits which takes 16-24 months at a minimum?

**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: 287**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ23-005140**

**Division/Agency Name: Agency - Airservices Australia**

**Hansard Reference: Written (02 November 2023)**

**Topic: AIRSERVICES - The Retirement Incentive Scheme 2021**

**Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:**

1. The RIS (the Retirement Incentive Scheme 2021) was clearly a disaster because there was no follow up plan, what is ASA doing to get qualified, ready-for-work ATCs to close the staff shortages that are creating havoc with flights particularly in regional Australia?
2. What actions are you considering to re-deploy recently RISed Air Traffic Controllers who could with a short retraining period, be re-engaged?
3. Surely this would be a quicker way of getting more people with a Yellow Book rather than waiting to train up new recruits which takes 16-24 months at a minimum?

**Answer:**

1. Please refer to Committee Question Numbers 265 (SQ23-004013) and 266 (SQ23-004012) from the 2023-24 Budget Estimates hearing.
2. Airservices routinely employs experienced air traffic controllers, and periodically undertakes recruitment campaigns domestically (which includes New Zealand) for experienced controllers. To be eligible for employment or reemployment, experienced controllers must meet minimum entry standards. Following a recent recruitment campaign for experienced controllers, Airservices is progressing applications from a number of previous employees, along with other experienced controllers who previously worked for the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) or Airways New Zealand.
3. See Answer 2.