

Cabin Crew Numbers

I note in the issue 41, May 2011 of "About the House" that a review of cabin crew members is being carried out by the House of Representatives Infrastructure committee.

CASA is proposing that an aircraft carrying up to 216 passengers should have a minimum of 4.32 cabin crew, down from the current 6. In practice, this would mean that 200 passengers would have 4 cabin crew and 150 passengers, only 3.

I submit that this reduction would not be acceptable for safety reasons, or for passenger amenity.

Assuming 200 passengers, 2 cabin crew could be serving refreshments at the rear of the aircraft, leaving 2. In the event of a passenger being ill or misbehaving (think of a football team returning from an interstate match), one or possibly both these two could be engaged. This would leave 100-150 passengers with no cabin crew quickly available, which in the case of an emergency would be a recipe for disaster. A single-aisle aircraft does not allow swift movement.

So far as passenger amenity is concerned, despite the attitude of some airlines, people are not parcels and should be able to expect the attention of cabin crew if needed. The proposed reduction in cabin crew ratios reduces this below a reasonable level.

Yours faithfully

John Webb,