



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

Australia – Regional Support Activities

Jim Wolfe

Assistant Secretary – International Aviation

International Aviation, Technology and Services Division
International Aviation Branch

26 January 2024



OVERVIEW OF AUSTRALIA'S REGIONAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

- There are three main areas in which Australia supports other States in the region:
 - dedicated assistance programs in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea;
 - Pacific assistance programs and engagement in Pacific regional forums such as the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO); and
 - representing Pacific interests in international forums including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council and various ICAO Panels and Working Groups.

Bilateral Activities – Indonesia

- Australia and Indonesia continue to work together on transport safety through the Indonesian Transport Safety Assistance Package (ITSAP) established in 2007 and funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
- ITSAP is a transport safety program involving capacity-building activities delivered by the Department of Infrastructure, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Airservices Australia and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) to associated Indonesian counterpart agencies.
- ITSAP's major goal is continuous improvement in the safe and efficient movement of goods and people between the two countries and regionally by:
 - strengthening Indonesia's transport safety and technical capability and culture; and
 - supporting greater harmonisation of Indonesia's transport safety regulatory framework and policies with international standards and practices, as established by the ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Bilateral Activities – Papua New Guinea

- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (Infrastructure) is responsible for the management of the Australia - Papua New Guinea (PNG) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the Transport Sector.
- Under the MoU, Infrastructure and Australian transport portfolio agencies support and deliver transport sector capacity building projects to PNG Government (GoPNG) transport sector agencies.
- DFAT provides all funding through the Transport Sector Support Program (TSSP).
- As with the Indonesian arrangements, multiple Australian agencies including the Department of Infrastructure, CASA, AMSA, Airservices Australia and ATSB work with associated PNG counterpart agencies to determine where and how the activities under the program should be prioritised.

Pacific Regional Activities

- The Sustainable Pacific Aviation Program, funded by DFAT, aims to support a safer, more inclusive and resilient Pacific aviation sector, which is central to the region's prosperity, economic development and people-to-people connectivity.
- In the short term the Pacific Flights Program continues to build on our support to the region during COVID-19 and increases intra-Pacific connectivity through supporting Pacific airlines to operate on specific connector routes.
- Australia also provides funding to PASO to conduct audit and surveillance activities for PASO Member States and is strengthening aviation meteorological capabilities through provision of infrastructure, training and peer-to-peer support.
- In the medium to long term, we are deepening our partnerships with aviation authorities, airports and airlines to invest in the next generation through skills, education and training, further support capability and capacity development, enhance gender equality, disability inclusion and environmental sustainability.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

- Global and regional shortages of aviation personnel post COVID – reduces ability of States to help other States.
- Attracting and retaining aviation personnel in States with smaller populations – raises consideration of regional approaches to assist with the performance of some functions rather than each State trying to perform all functions.
- Need to develop and implement policies, regulations and plans for giving effect to international aviation environmental commitments.
- Need to develop and implement policies, regulations and plans for giving effect to international aviation facilitation commitments.
- Ensuring States regional support complements support provided by other States.
- ICAO APAC Regional Office to act as a “co-ordinator” and “match maker” to enhance the effectiveness of regional support.