



RAAA PRESS RELEASE

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) congratulates the Federal Government on their proposed changes to the Vet Fee Help system.

Members of the RAAA provide vital aviation services throughout Australia, and they require sufficient numbers of qualified pilots to continue operating successfully. Furthermore, the association agrees that students from any economic background should have an equal opportunity to pursue careers in aviation. The proposed new Vet Student Loan scheme appears that it will continue to enable students who cannot afford the up-front tuition fees to get a loan from the Federal Government for their course.

The RAAA also supports the governments increased requirements on quality measures for approved Registered Training Organisations, including the need to ensure students progress at a satisfactory rate and KPIs on graduate outcomes, student satisfaction and completion rates.

The RAAA is encouraged by Senator Birmingham's comments that *"There will be opportunities for providers of very high cost courses, such as aviation, to seek exemptions, but they will truly be the exemption rather than the rule."* Aviation courses are genuinely higher cost than the average vocational course, and students will need more financial support from the government than in many other vocational sectors.

The RAAA appreciates that the industry was given the opportunity to have input into the new reforms, and thanks Senator Birmingham's office and the Department of Education for listening to the aviation industry's needs.

Media Contacts: Jim Davis: 0408 640 533, Mike Higgins: 0434 608 332

Dated: Friday, 7 October 2016