



# **AVIATION SAFETY FOUNDATION AUSTRALASIA**

**ASFA** *“Independently Promoting and Facilitating SAFE & SOUND AVIATION”*

*Media Release, 17 July 2007*

## **AVIATION SAFETY MENTORS TO IMPROVE STANDARDS**

The Chairman of the Aviation Safety Foundation Australasia (ASFA), the Honourable John Sharp, was pleased to announce the timely completion of **ASFA’s Aviation Safety Mentor Program** by Human Factors specialist **Mr Joey Anca Jr** for **Swinburne University of Technology**.

“Australian aviation faces an unprecedented problem arising from rapid growth of aviation within Australia and international demand for Australia’s trained pilots. A subtle but pervasive consequence of this growth is high rates of turnover and shortage of skilled and experienced personnel producing continuing dilution of the competency pool available to mentor more recent entrants. At an alarming rate, this is diluting the skill sets of the sector”, said Mr Sharp.

Mentoring is a unique but critical component of the overall aviation safety system and is essential to the maintenance and improvement of safety standards. Accordingly, there is a need for official recognition of a structured and validated approach to mentoring and for that approach to be embedded in the nation’s aviation safety system.

This ASFA initiative recognised that mentoring has played a key role in aviation safety for many years but due to the velocity of change, quality and consistency was declining.

“The methodology developed provides an efficient way for an operator to maintain currency and standards of mentoring. Mentoring can provide a more cost beneficial method of providing regulatory assurance of safety standards. **ASFA looks forward to working with regulators, service providers and all sectors of the Australasian industry to implement this new program**”, said Mr Sharp.

Features of the new ASFA program include portability and flexibility; scalability; validation and reliability; mainstreaming; durability and efficiency. As well as providing a tool for remedial and continuous improvement in general aviation, the program is suitable for use by both operators and regulators as a mainstream vehicle for both developing personnel to assume key airline positions such as check and training, chief pilots, maintenance controllers and AOC holders; and as a component of an operator’s quality assurance and/or safety management system.

*Sponsors of this major project included Airservices Australia, Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Aviation Australia, BHP Billiton, Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety Directorate, Mobil Aviation, Qantas Airways, Regional Express, Hawker Pacific, Assetinsure, QBE and Vero Aviation.*

ASFA is a non-Government, independent, not-for-profit, apolitical, incorporated public company whose primary function is to independently promote and facilitate safe and also complementary sound business practices across all sectors of the Australasian aviation industry. Website: [www.asfa.org.au](http://www.asfa.org.au) . For further information contact Gary Lawson-Smith on M: 0419 491 547 or E: [garylawnsonsmith@asfa.org.au](mailto:garylawnsonsmith@asfa.org.au).

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