



MEDIA RELEASE

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Justice
Acting Minister for Education and Training**

31 July 2008

TAFE NSW recognised as a preferred aircraft maintenance trainer

Acting Minister for Education and Training, John Hatzistergos, today announced TAFE NSW – South Western Sydney Institute had become the first TAFE in Australia to be granted authority as an approved aircraft maintenance training organisation by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

Mr Hatzistergos today visited TAFE's Aeroskills Centre - Padstow College to announce the achievement and acknowledge the Institute's high standards.

"The lemma Government is committed to boosting training standards by working with licensing and industry bodies," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"This new accreditation will allow already skilled local maintenance engineers to gain internationally recognised higher qualifications.

"It also allows NSW companies to compete for maintenance contracts for offshore carriers, including those who add the new Airbus to their fleet.

"TAFE NSW is capitalising and building on our national reputation for aviation safety," the Minister said.

Greg Hood, Group General Manager of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), presented the Acting Minister with the Certificate of Approval to provide national Diploma level qualifications to meet CASA's new maintenance standards 100.66 regulations.

Member for East Hills, Alan Ashton, said the approval means the South Western Sydney Institute is the first TAFE Institute to offer current aircraft engineers, licensed engineers and apprentices Diploma level training under the new Civil Aviation Order.

"This is a great achievement that showcases the Institute's capacity to deliver innovative training and recognition processes relevant to today's workplace," Mr Ashton said.

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"South Western Sydney Institute's close links with industry, its location adjacent to Bankstown airport and its state-of-the-art facilities help give students the highest level of flexible training options to keep up with industry demand," Mr Ashton added.

Australian aircraft maintenance personnel can now obtain licences and ratings based on the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) categories – A, B1 and B2, and aircraft ratings.

This ground-breaking accreditation means graduating students can apply for the new licence after successfully completing the Diploma and appropriate work experience.

The Minister said existing aircraft maintenance engineers benefit by gaining recognition of previous training and experience, advanced technical skills training and specialised management development education.

"As NSW has a significant proportion of Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineers the ability to convert their existing licence to the new standards is an important offering to the industry," Mr Hatzistergos said.

For information on Aeroskills training please contact Padstow College on 9722 5348 or log on to www.swsi.tafensw.edu.au/aeroandauto .

For information on all courses available at TAFE NSW - South Western Sydney Institute visit or phone your local college or log onto www.swsi.tafensw.edu.au .

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