



August 14, 2017

Mr. Shane Carmody  
Chief Executive Officer and Director of Aviation Safety  
Civil Aviation Safety Authority  
GPO Box 2005  
Canberra ACT 2601

Mr. Carmody,

Third class medical reform in the United States was signed into law on July 15, 2016 by President Obama, after being passed by the House and Senate a few days earlier. On January 10, 2017, the FAA published the BasicMed final rule, based on the legislation, and set May 1, 2017 as the effective date for the new regulations. We believe a similar initiative to reform the medical regulations and standards for general aviation pilots in Australia will improve safety and be a catalyst for growth in the community. We jointly call on CASA to undertake this initiative.

In the first three months since BasicMed has been implemented, more than 15,000 pilots in the United States have become eligible to fly under these new medical standards, and we expect that number to grow substantially. Hundreds of thousands of pilots in the US will benefit from BasicMed, reducing the ineffective and burdensome government bureaucracy, and saving both pilots and the government millions of dollars. We believe reforming medical certification regulations and applying risk-based standards would benefit pilots in Australia and save time, resources, and money that could be reinvested in ways that do much more to enhance safety including increased proficiency flying and installing advanced safety equipment in aircraft.

AOPA has developed extensive materials to assist pilots who are interested in flying under BasicMed. To ensure that pilots continue to have the information needed to self-assess their fitness to fly and to maintain the current and profound emphasis on safety, AOPA has developed a comprehensive online course to educate pilots further and deliver the tools they need to make a reliable self-assessment. Pilots may complete AOPA's online course free of charge to satisfy BasicMed rules requiring pilots to complete an FAA approved medical education course. Coupled with an open and honest relationship with one's physician in lieu of a cursory medical exam by an Aviation Medical Examiner (AME), this training will enhance, not degrade, aviation safety.

We believe that making flying more affordable through medical reform can be a catalyst that will get many pilots back to flying, and once implemented, will boost participation in general aviation and help the industry recover from the current downward spiral that it is in. AOPA and AOPA Australia stand-by to assist in any way possible and look forward to your favorable reply.

Respectfully,

Mark Baker  
President & CEO  
AOPA

Marc De Stoop  
President  
AOPA Australia