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NEW POLICY DISCRIMINATES AGAINST CVD PILOTS

New rules relating to colour vision deficiency (CVD) discriminates against hundreds of highly-experienced pilots working in Australia's major airlines, whilst failing to deliver any better safety outcomes, according to the Virgin Independent Pilots Association (VIPA).

After a review of the Civil Authority Safety Regulation Part 67 by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), Class 1 pilots with CVD will have to inform their employers about their CVD and also "may" be forced to undergo a colour assessment and diagnostic test (CAD) in the future.

VIPA Executive Director, Simon O'Hara, said the move will jeopardise the careers of hundreds of commercial pilots with CVD across the country.

"Whilst VIPA always recognises that aviation safety remains paramount, we condemn CASA's new procedures relating to CVD pilots," Mr O'Hara said today.

"The fact is, there are hundreds of commercial pilots with CVD who have passed check and line training requirements and subsequently have thousands of hours flying without incident, who will be impacted by these restrictive practices.

"Their everyday performance is no different to their other pilot colleagues, yet they are being ruthlessly targeted.

"Our members are questioning if there is any real safety case for these procedures at all, CASA has introduced these without evidence of any incident or accident in which impaired colour vision could be attributed a causal factor."

Mr O'Hara said VIPA supports an appeal lodged in the AAT by a CVD pilot against a refusal by CASA to permit him to become a Captain. CASA had used this pilot's case to launch what amounts to a "de facto" appeal against the earlier AAT decisions which have allowed many hundreds of CVD pilots to fly with no restrictions at all levels of Australian aviation.

Mr O'Hara said VIPA continued to make representations to members of the Federal Parliament, on behalf of the hundreds of pilots with CVD.

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