

AUSTRALIAN . SPORT ROTORCRAFT . ASSOCIATION



1st of May 2017

Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Cavanagh Street
Southbank, 3006
Victoria

RE: COR 2013 005897 & COR 2013 005898. Investigation into the death of Reginald Thaggard and Jordan Pang.

Based on a request by the Coroners Court for a response from The Australian Sport Rotorcraft Association [ASRA] in relation to recommendations set out in the "Finding into Death with Inquest" ASRA submits the following reply.

In 2015 ASRA implemented a bi-annual facility audit programme where all current instructors are subject to a rigorous audit from both a theoretical and practical standpoint.

All student flight records are thoroughly checked as well as a practical flight test ensuring competency to "instructor" level.

This audit can only be carried out by one of our ASRA training management team or a suitably qualified person authorised by our Operations Manager.

Pilots seeking an Instructor rating must attain "Principles of Method and Instruction" qualifications as well as attend an ASRA sponsored Instructor course.

Our audit system and records are available to CASA on request.

The term "Trial Introductory Flight" has always been a contentious issue within general and recreational aviation with varying interpretations. As part of our Instructor audit programme a significant emphasis is placed on what is required for 'Trial Introductory Flight' compliance as per the ASRA Operations manual and CASA legislation.

In regard to recommendation [4] ASRA does not have the constitutional or regulatory authority to make a judgement on the validity of a proposed business case put forward by an instructor applicant. We would however do our best to make sure that all instructors work within the guidelines as set out in our Operations Manual as well as the strict requirements of the CASA legislative instruments.

The recommendation of a six monthly audit is simply not feasible due to financial constraints within a voluntary Australia wide association such as ASRA.

ASRA is a not for profit association primarily run by volunteers relying on our membership fees and a small grant from CASA in which to operate.

In order to increase the regularity and scope of our current audit programme we would require a substantial increase in funding.

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Also adding to the financial burden of maintaining the Instructor audit programme is the cost to ASRA of aiding the authorities in the investigation of fatal gyrocopter accidents within Australia.

Yours Sincerely,

Rick Elliott

ASRA President