

Airlines welcome support for maintaining Australia's international aviation capability

Airlines have today welcomed the Federal Government's [announcement of new and continuing support for maintaining Australia's international aviation capability](#) as the industry prepares for international borders to reopen.

Commenting on the Deputy Prime Minister's announcement – which acknowledged the fact that COVID-19 is continuing to have a significant impact on the aviation industry – Airlines for Australia & New Zealand (A4ANZ) Chairman, Professor Graeme Samuel AC, said the package provided critical support for ensuring airlines and airports are ready to respond to increased demand for international travel once border restrictions are eased.

“The Federal Government's [International Aviation Support Program](#) has enabled airlines to maintain core international aviation jobs so the workforce is ready when borders reopen. We were pleased to hear the Deputy Prime Minister today commit to the continuation of this support until the end of March 2022.”

Airlines have also welcomed the announcement of the new [International Airport Security Charges Rebate program](#) to help airports manage the costs associated with mandated security obligations for international passenger flights, as the entire sector has had to absorb significant costs associated with international aviation security throughout the course of the pandemic.

Prof Samuel said, “Airport charges – including security charges – represent a significant component of airlines' costs. With the recovery path for airlines remaining fragile, it will be necessary to keep costs as low as possible as domestic borders reopen and international travel restarts.”

“Today's announcements will continue to assist Australia's international aviation sector to maintain core capability, ensure that Australian's have access to safe and affordable international air travel, and support Australia's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.”

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