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## MEDIA RELEASE

### AUSTRALIAN AIRLINE PILOT ACADEMY CELEBRATES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND PILOT GRADUATION

The Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA), a wholly owned subsidiary of Regional Express (Rex) based in Wagga Wagga NSW, will today commemorate its 10 year anniversary with a special ceremony to coincide with the graduation of the 21<sup>st</sup> cohort of Rex Cadet Pilots and a Vietnamese cadet, destined for Vietnam Airlines.

The Ceremony will be officiated by Guest of Honour, the Hon. Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, and attended by other distinguished guests from the local and aviation community.

Rex commenced the unique Rex Pilot Cadet Programme in December 2007 in an endeavour to combat a world-wide pilot shortage. After initially commencing operations in Mangalore, Victoria, Rex constructed a state of the art pilot training academy located at Wagga Wagga. AAPA's new facility was officially opened in May 2010.

Rex has invested over \$32 million in its Pilot Academy, making it a world class training facility within the Asia Pacific region, equipped with state of the art facilities, including a fleet of 20 training aircraft, modern flight simulators, including a SAAB 340 Full Motion Simulator, which was opened in 2014 and an Instrument Landing System (ILS) equipped runway which was commissioned in 2010.

AAPA provides its cadets individual accommodation, fully catered dining and a gymnasium amongst other social and recreational facilities for complete and integrated live-in training.

AAPA is approved as a Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS), and is an Approved Training Organisation (ATO) by the General Civil Aviation Authority of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam and an approved Supplier to Vietnam Airlines, with the first 8 Vietnamese cadets graduating in May 2017.

Today's graduates have completed an intensive training program, from ab-initio, to graduating with an Australian Commercial Pilots Licence and Multi Engine Command Instrument Rating issued by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). Since 2007, over 200 Rex Cadets have graduated from AAPA, and subsequently transitioned into Rex and its subsidiaries in the rank of First Officer.

Mr Chris Hine, the Chairman of AAPA said, "Today is a particularly special day for us. We are very proud of and congratulate today's graduates but we also reflect on and celebrate 10 years of AAPA and the Rex Cadet Pilot Program"

"AAPA is a world class facility providing the highest quality of standards and disciplines in pilot training and thanks to the dedicated and tireless work of all our staff we have graduated cadet pilots that now make up 79% of Rex's First Officers and 30% of Rex's Captains as well as many pilots for major airlines around the world." Mr Hine added.





# Regional Express

**Regional Express (Rex)** is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of more than 50 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1,500 weekly flights to 60 destinations throughout all states in Australia. In addition to the regional airline Regional Express, the **Rex Group** comprises wholly owned subsidiaries **Pel-Air Aviation** (air freight and charter operator), **Air Link** (Dubbo-based regional airline) and the **Australian Airline Pilot Academy**.

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