



Centre for Workforce Futures

SEMINAR SERIES

Flying Blind? Policy Challenges and Possible Research Directions for Aircraft Maintenance in Australia

Professor Ian Hampson, CWF

2 April 2019

2:00–3:30 PM

LOCATION: Finance Decision Lab (4EaR 110), 4 Eastern Road, Macquarie University NSW 2109

ABOUT THE TALK

Aircraft maintenance is crucial for the broader aviation industry which is beset by a growing shortage of trained and licensed personnel at a global level. This could be an economic opportunity for Australia given its proximity to Asia — the world's fastest growing region. However, Australia's training industry, and its safety oversight, is now out of alignment with international standards. Australian aircraft maintenance engineers and aviation manufacturers now face great difficulty in getting their qualifications, licences and products recognised overseas. In our region, passengers fly on planes that may not be approved in accordance with 'proper'

international standards (cf Air Asia, Lion Air). In Australia, regulatory reforms in training and licensing have largely been unsuccessful, as witnessed in training decline, policy fragmentation and a resulting quality scandal. Reform efforts are in danger of 'flying blind' due to lack of an overarching perspective, and because certain international reform processes, which potentially impact the alignment of Australian training with international standards, have not been concluded. This seminar attempts to identify issues that are in need of research-based policy intervention, as well as to flag some opportunities for academic researchers.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ian Hampson is Honorary Professor at Macquarie University's Centre for Workplace Futures, after decades at UNSW, where he led an ARC-funded Linkage project titled 'The Future of Aircraft Maintenance in Australia: Workforce Capability, Aviation Safety and Industry Development'. Ian's academic background is in Political Science, Political Sociology, History

and Science and Technology Studies. He has published in industrial relations, sociology of work, training and skill recognition, and aircraft maintenance. During his sabbatical in 2017, Ian worked with Professor Åke Sandberg (Stockholm University) on a study of 'Job Quality' in Sweden.

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