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TWO TRAINING INITIATIVES DOWN UNDER: SPECIALTY TRAINING ROTATION AND COMPETENCY-BASED DME TRAINING

DEUX INITIATIVES DE FORMATION EN AUSTRALIE: ROTATION DE FORMATION SPÉCIALISÉE ET FORMATION DES EXAMINEURS MEDICAUX AXÉE SUR LES COMPÉTENCES

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Introduction: Recognition of aerospace medicine as a specialty is well established in a number of Nations, however in the English-speaking world it has been unusual with the notable exception of the USA. In recent years specialty recognition has been achieved in Singapore and United Kingdom; in Australasia, a College has been established but Governmental recognition has not yet been sought.

Summary: The paper describes the establishment of a training rotation which is believed to be the first of its type, for trainee specialists in aerospace medicine to progress through 8-month posts with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and two commercial airlines. This involved the establishment of a memorandum of understanding, a selection and review board, and a rigorous interview process. The first cohort of doctors has been selected and they have commenced in their positions. The second initiative is launching a training course for Designated Aviation Medical Examiners based and assessed on the ICAO Competency Framework, developed to harmonise DME training internationally. This follows similar efforts in both UAE and Singapore. The development of the course is presented together with a review of outcomes.