

Media release

02/13 – 29 January 2013

39 trainee air traffic controllers reach key career milestone

The latest group of trainee air traffic controllers have celebrated reaching a crucial career milestone with the national air navigation services provider.

Airservices today (29 January) marked the achievement of 39 trainee controllers in receiving their Diploma of Aviation (Air Traffic Control), a nationally recognised qualification, at its Learning Academy in Melbourne.

The controllers have obtained their initial Air Traffic Control licence rating and endorsement over the past six months.

Licence endorsements are regulatory authorisations which permit controllers to work in particular air traffic control roles under Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Regulations.

The controllers are now working throughout Australia from Karratha to Mackay towers and in Airservices Brisbane and Melbourne air traffic control centres.

Airservices Executive General Manager Air Traffic Control, Jason Harfield, said the 39 men and women would play a crucial role in managing the safe and efficient flow of aircraft into, out of, and across Australian airspace.

"This latest group of controllers to graduate from our academy will play a key role in managing the rapid growth of air traffic predicted to occur in Australian skies to 2020 and beyond," Mr Harfield said.

"It also represents a significant milestone as we prepare for the retirement of a significant number of our workforce over the next five to ten years."

They will now continue to develop their careers with Airservices national workforce of around 1000 controllers stationed at 28 air traffic control towers, two en route centres and four terminal control units around the country.

The Airservices Learning Academy in Melbourne includes state-of-the-art equipment including a 360 degree full immersion tower simulator and world-leading technology.

Airservices controls 11 per cent of the world's total airspace and manages air traffic operations for around 80 million passengers on more than four million flights each year.

For media inquiries contact Airservices Media on (02) 6257 2828 or email media@airservicesaustralia.com

An image of the trainees is available for download at <http://newsroom.airservicesaustralia.com> (registration required). Get the latest news and updates via our Twitter account: @AirservicesNews