

# Media release

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## Aviation rescue fire fighters graduate and ready for service

Twenty four highly trained aviation fire fighters will commence work at airports around the country next week following their graduation from Airservices Learning Academy in Melbourne today.

The elite team have just completed 11 weeks of intensive training, allowing them to join over 800 of the most highly-trained, professional aviation rescue fire fighters in the world.

The new recruits, who graduated with a Certificate II in Public Safety (Fire Fighting and Emergency Operations), have been trained in fighting aircraft and structural fires, aviation rescue techniques and dealing with the hazards of highly flammable aviation fuels. A key component of the training sees the recruits extinguish simulated aircraft fires at Airservices state-of-the-art fire training ground.

Airservices Executive General Manager Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting, Michelle Bennetts said the new recruits will work at stations in Alice Springs, Brisbane, Cairns, Launceston, Mackay, Melbourne, Perth, Rockhampton and Sydney.

"Airservices has one of the largest, most highly trained, professional aviation rescue fire fighting services in the world," Ms Bennetts said.

"Our fire fighters have the expertise to provide Australian airports and airline passengers with first-rate rescue and fire fighting services."

Aviation fire fighter Adam Bennett from Sydney was presented with the Silver Axe Award for the most outstanding recruit of the course, and will now join the ARFF service at Sydney.

Airservices General Manager Learning Academy, Linda Spurr congratulated the graduates on successfully completing the demanding training course.

In addressing the recruits, Ms Spurr acknowledged their training and graduation as a significant milestone in a career that supports the safe travel of millions of passengers each year.

"I wish you all the best for your career with Airservices", she said.

118 recruits have graduated in the last 12 months as Airservices continues to address an ageing workforce and the increased growth of aviation in Australia.

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**Images of the graduation are available for download at <http://newsroom.airservicesaustralia.com> (registration required).**