

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday, 24 September 2018

### **ATSB REPORT INTO CRASH AT ESSENDON AIRPORT**

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has today released its final report into the aircraft accident that occurred at Essendon Airport in 2017.

The report indicates that the cause of the accident was a failure by the pilot to detect that the aircraft's rudder trim was in the full nose-left position prior to take-off. This resulted in a loss of directional control and also hampered the aircraft's ability to climb.

Gordon Legal Partner Paul Henderson, who is representing the widows of the four passengers killed in the accident, said while the families were still struggling following the tragedy, they appreciated receiving a final explanation into the cause of the crash.

"In these circumstances the widows have two causes of action open to them, a strict liability claim under the Civil Aviation Carrier's Liability Act, where damages are capped, and a negligence action against the pilot's estate," Mr Henderson said.

"We will be advising our clients to proceed with both actions.

"Considering the cause of the accident, we hope that the Insurers of the carrier and pilot will take a conciliatory approach and seek to resolve these claims as soon as possible to avoid any further trauma to all families involved in this tragedy."

#### **Comment attributable to the widows of the passengers:**

"For more than 12 months our heartache has been accompanied by painful questions.

"Today we finally get some answers to those questions, but the heartache will last forever.

"We are all still coming to terms with the loss of our loved ones and the impact it has had on the lives of so many other people – sons, daughters, parents and friends.

"While today's report is welcome, nothing will bring back the people we all loved so dearly.

"Thank you to those who helped answer some of these questions and thank you to all the first responders, emergency services personnel involved and the Victorian people for their support during this period."

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