

MEDIA RELEASE

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Safety is always the destination for airport workers

Australia's airports are reminding passengers that as the nation begins to reach the agreed vaccination targets and people start flying again, air travel may look different in each state and territory.

Australian Airports Association (AAA) Chief Executive James Goodwin said the domestic reopening coincides with the sector's annual Airport Safety Week campaign.

"The theme of Airport Safety Week 2021 is 'Safety is always our destination' which recognises the airport industry's continued commitment to exceptional safety standards, particularly throughout the pandemic," Mr Goodwin said.

"Airports will take this opportunity to remind travellers to do their homework before arriving at the terminal because flying has changed.

"Passengers may be asked about their vaccine status, told to check-in via a QR code and may need a valid border permit to enter another state or territory.

"Face masks will continue to be mandatory in all airport terminals across the country and we remind passengers to come prepared.

"We know opening up and living with the virus may be stressful for some people and that there could be some initial anxiety around travel but it's important any frustrations around the rules are not taken out on airport staff who are working harder than ever to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

"Australia's airports are among the safest in the world and there are thousands of hardworking staff behind the scenes are making sure safety is maintained.

"The airport sector was one of the first and hardest hit by COVID-19 but its commitment to safety has never changed.

"Airport staff have continued to work around the clock, on the frontline to make sure aircraft can land to deliver vital medical supplies, freight and bring Australians home from overseas.

“This essential work cannot be done from the comfort of home and I want to thank each and every worker who has gone above and beyond to ensure critical airport operations could continue during this challenging time.”

As part of Airport Safety Week airports will host a range of events based on the daily themes which include: airport safety through a global pandemic, human factors in aviation safety, Foreign Object Debris (FOD) walk, mental health in safety and Safety Management Systems.

Airport Safety Week runs from 18-22 October. For more information visit <https://airports.asn.au/airport-safety-week/>

Ends.

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