



NAC Conference

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Raising the Bar: Why Mandatory Ground School Strengthens Safety in SA
Aviation

Who is Flying Jurist

- Advisory and Strategic Consulting Firm
- Focusing on aviation law and economics
- Convenor of High-Level Stakeholder Engagement Platform - Aviation Indaba <https://aviationindaba.com/>
- Aviation Think Tank
- **Flying Jurist is where aviation, law, industry, and opportunity converge**



Aviation Regulation & Access

- SACAA Notice on Exam Requirements
- A Shift in Access, Control, and Opportunity
- Appears administrative—but signals structural change

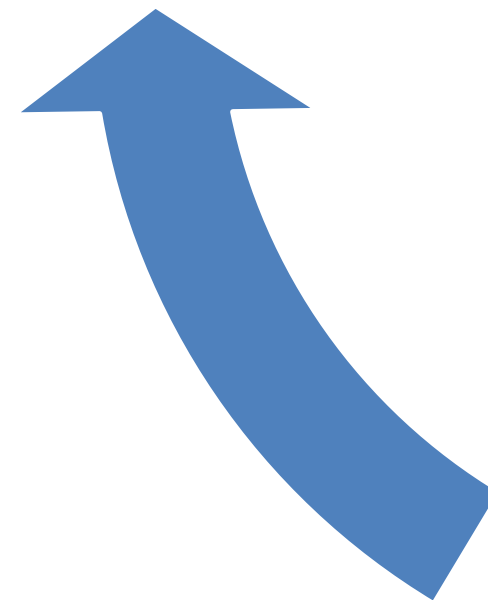


The Regulatory Change

Eliminates
self-study
pathway

Mandatory
proof of
ground
instruction

Applies to
initial
exam
attempts



Pedagogical Justification

Aligned with deeper learning
(Bloom's Taxonomy)

Encourages analysis and
application - structured
instruction pushes students
beyond rote memorisation into
deeper cognitive engagement –
application, analysis, and
synthesis

Pedagogical approach supports
aviation safety outcomes –
inculcates an aviation culture

Global Alignment

- Aligned with EASA standards
- Ensures structured academic exposure
- Strengthens regulatory credibility
- Not a new rule per se – just deferred enforcement



Industry Demographics

Group	Total	Percentage
White	13,100	79%
Black (African, Indian, Coloured)	3,520	21%
Total	16,620	100%

Gender	Total	Percentage
Male	14,497	87%
Female	2,123	13%
Total	16,620	100%

Industry Demographics

The Access Question

- Education reform vs access limitation
- Ground school introduces financial barrier
- Raises equity concerns
- Legacy of structural exclusion persists

Category	Male	Female	Total
White	12,070 (72%)	1,030 (6%)	13,100
African	1,727	916	2,643
Indian	346	78	424
Coloured	354	99	453
Total	14,497	2,123	16,620

Invisible Barriers

No explicit exclusion—but
procedural barriers exist

Systemic rather than direct
restriction

Impacts participation
outcomes

System Gaps



No prescribed ground school hours

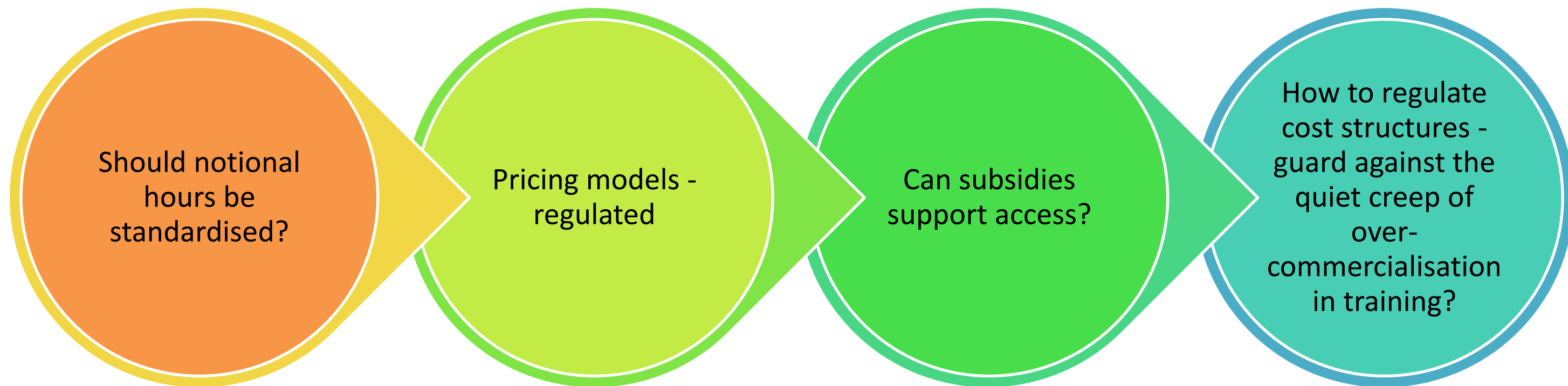


ATOs determine duration



Risk of inconsistency and cost inflation

Policy Questions



Way Forward



Implementation Road Map



Stakeholder engagement (co-creation, not imposition)



M & E Framework



Digital Learning Framework (Modernisation)

Conclusion



Regulation must balance safety and access – mandatory ground school seeks to do that



Could exclude, yet aviation growth depends on inclusivity



Need to treat aviation training as a public good – not as a purely commercial driven endeavour



Reasonable accommodation – phased in approach to allow industry to prepare



Thank You

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