

Air Traffic Controller Staffing and Sick Leave by Tower Facility (FY2025–26)

This document was created by Airservices Australia in response to Freedom of Information request 28/26/27.

The data has been extracted from Airservices' records and is provided for the financial year 2025–26.

Request	Information	Adelaide	Brisbane	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
1. The total operational Air Traffic Controller headcount rostered/assigned specifically to each individual tower facility.	FTE	21.1	43	34.7	28.4	44.1
2. The total cumulative sick leave hours / days recorded by operational controllers assigned to each specified tower facility broken down by location.	Total UPL Sick Hours	919.8	4,933.8	2,128.8	1,438.0	5,973.4
3. The average sick leave hours/days taken per controller per financial year for each individual air traffic control tower.	UPL Sick Hours per FTE	45.5	124.7	68.1	56.4	131.6
4. The total number of short-notice or unplanned sick leave absences recorded for operational controllers at each individual tower facility.	STUPL Sick Hours	619.3	2,656.3	1,366.3	1,311.0	4,146.9

Supplementary notes;

- Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) is a measure of staffing based on hours worked relative to a full-time employee.
- FTE for the purposes of sick leave calculations includes all Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) not just those allocated to roster i.e., includes staff transitioning into and out of roster.
- STUPL = Short term unplanned leave sick leave which is sick leave taken of 10 calendar days or less.
- UPL = Unplanned leave and includes STUPL and non-STUPL sick leave