

**Source: Parkes Champion Post**

**REX 'first' with on-time departures**

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Regional Express (Rex) has achieved the number one ranking for On Time Departures for the financial year 2007/08.

The statistics were recently released by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics and they include all major domestic and regional airlines operating within Australia - including Parkes which REX services.

REX also had one of the lowest cancellation rates amongst the major carriers at 1.2%, coming in just behind Jetstar (0.9%) but ahead of Qantas (2.3%) and Virgin Blue (1.9%).

REX General Manager Network Strategy and Sales, Mr Warrick Lodge said the statistics are particularly pleasing given that it corresponds with a financial year that has seen REX lose more than 50% of its pilots.

'The pilot shortage led directly to an increase in the cancellation rate from the typically low 0.2% up to 1.2% during 2007/08.

These latest annual statistics demonstrate the outstanding work put in by all Rex staff to achieve industry-leading results in the face of almost insurmountable odds."

"However Rex apologises unreservedly to our passengers for not being able to deliver the high standards expected of it during the past challenging 18 months. Our Board has gone to extraordinary lengths to reverse the situation and we are confident that we will soon be able to regain the exceptional reliability which Rex had been well known for."

Regional Express (Rex) is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of 40 Saab 340 aircraft on more than 1,200 flights weekly to 24 destinations from Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. The Rex Group comprises Regional Express, air freight and charter operator Pel-Air Aviation and Dubbo based regional airline Air Link, as well as the pilot academy Australian Airline Pilot Academy.