



**Australian Government**  
**Civil Aviation Safety Authority**



# Aeromedical certification and mental health Aviation Medicine - ALAANZ

Dr Kate Manderson, Principal Medical Officer

# Acknowledgement

# Making (difficult) aeromedical decisions

- Aeromedical decision-making framework
- When the standard is not met
- Challenges for mental health

# Principal Medical Officer



Avmed's standard answer to everything



# Our medical certification regulations

ICAO Annex 1 Chapter 6 and Manual



Civil Aviation Act



Civil Aviation Safety Regulations – Part 67



DAME Handbook / CPG / Manual of Standards



Evidence-based medical practice and risk assessment

# Issuing certificates with conditions (67.195)

- **CASA may issue a medical certificate to a person subject to any condition that is necessary in the interests of the safety of air navigation, having regard to the medical condition of the person.**

“Flexibility provisions”

# If the standard is not met...

- Ways to FIND A WAY for this person to fly even when they don't meet the standard – Accredited Medical Conclusion (AMC)
- Risk treatments – manage the likelihood and the consequence
  - Likelihood: evidence-based calculation, medical
  - Likelihood and consequence: operational conditions

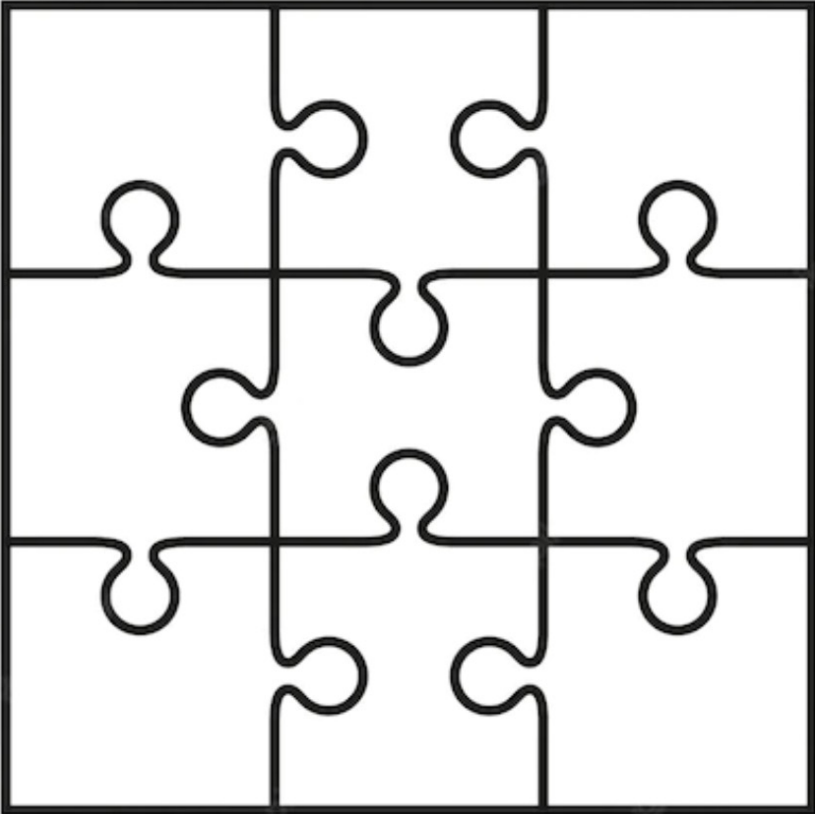


# Medical risk assessment: Likelihood

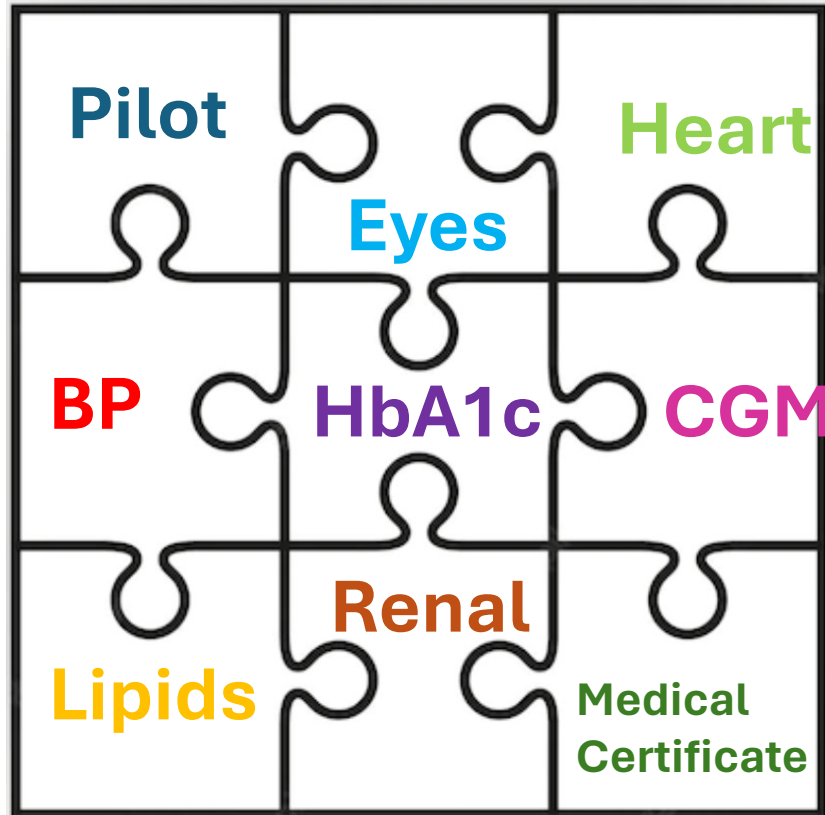


- Class 1: 1% (2%)
- Class 2 and 3: 2% (4%)
- Over the duration of the certificate - annual

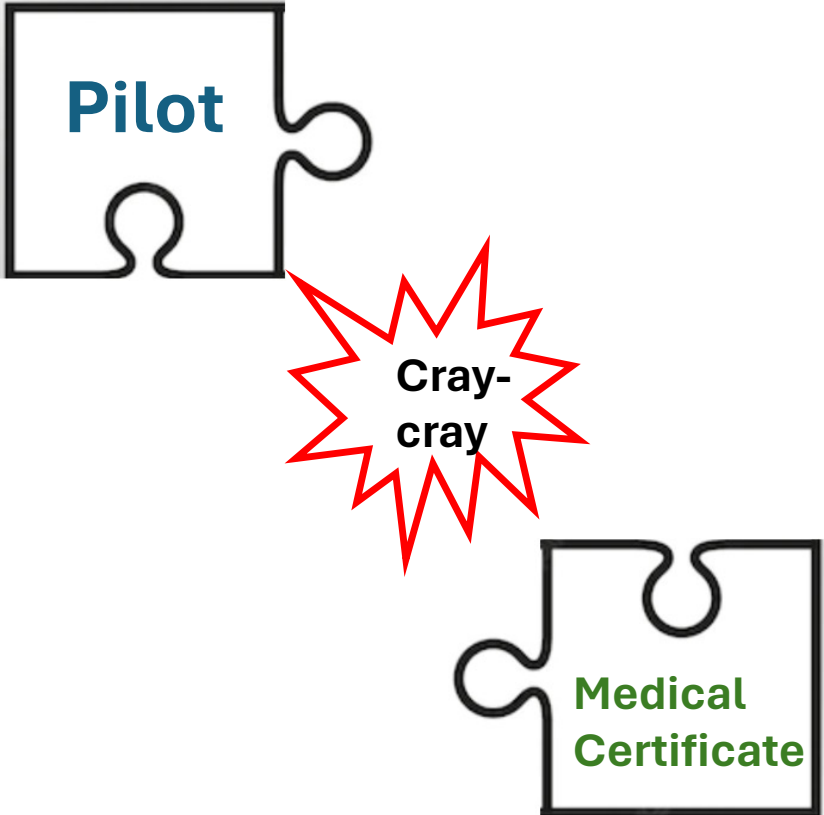
# The AMC puzzle – finding the one-percent



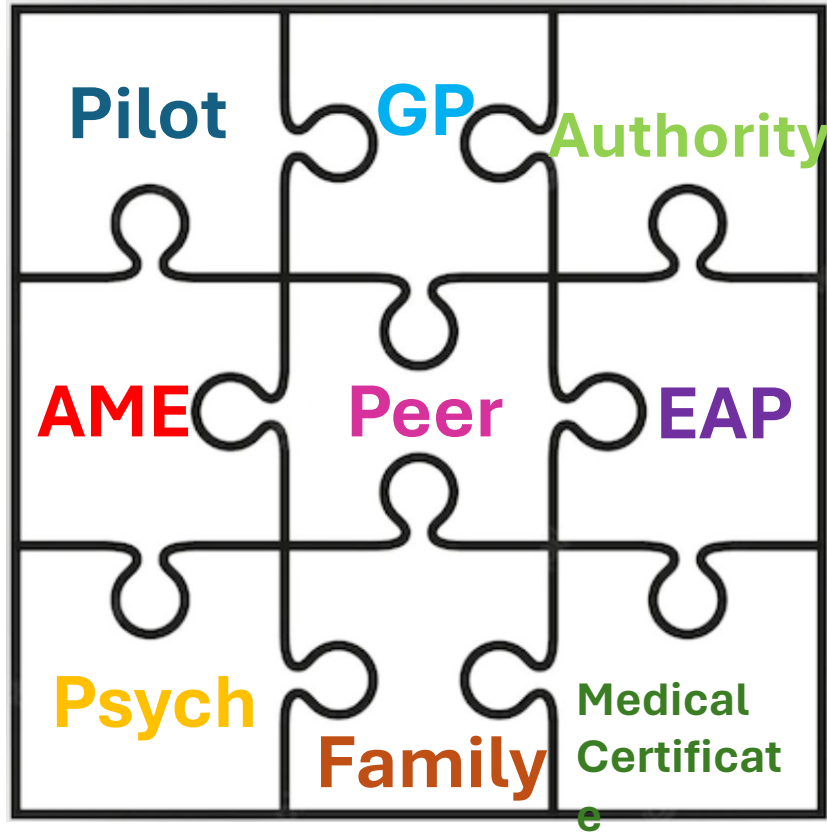
# The AMC game: Diabetes edition



# The AMC game: Mental health edition



# The aviation safety game: Mental health edition



# How do we know if we've “won”?

- We have all the pieces
  - Seeking help
  - Disclosure to AME
  - Engagement with PSP
  - Collateral history
  - Clinical assessment
  - Operational assessment

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# What if we think we're "losing"?

- Revert to the "rules"
  - Can we make a decision with what we have?
  - We need to make the MOST SAFE decision with what we have
  - Sometimes that means no certificate while we gather the pieces



# Summary

- Making aviation medical decisions is easy if we stick to the rules
  - Case-by-case is much harder to decide (and to defend?)

BUT

- Sticking to the rules is less safe overall than following them strictly every time
  - And less fair
  - (And less defensible?)

# Questions

- ... be kind