

Save The Date – ATAS Transition Workshops Reveal All.

The Australian Federation of Travel Agents will host Transition Workshops throughout November ahead of the AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS) commencement next year.

The Transition Workshops are a critical step in successfully transitioning the industry from a National licensed scheme into a voluntary, industry-led accreditation scheme.

ATAS General Manager, Gary O’Riordan said that the transition process began during August when the ATAS team hit the road consulting with over 650 travel agents nationally, on the proposed accreditation scheme, in response to the Travel Industry Transition Plan released 7th December 2012.

“For the new scheme to be successful we needed to do our due diligence in both communicating changes to the trade and listening to what the retail travel industry would like to see included in the new scheme. After all this is an industry-led scheme”, said O’Riordan.

“We have taken on board feedback received via the consultation workshops, fed these back to the supplier consultative committee and various working groups to finesse the details of the scheme, and deliver a scheme which will elevate travel standards and take the industry to new heights”, said O’Riordan.

The Transition Workshops will examine the practical consequences associated with the wind-down of the Travel Compensation Fund on travel intermediaries. It will introduce key principles of Australian Consumer Law and provide an overview of how the transition to the ACL regulatory regime will impact on travel intermediaries. The workshops will address the schemes final criteria, the application process for participants and explain the changes in audit and financial reporting requirements associated with the changes in regulation.

Workshops will commence early November and conclude early December 2013.

Ends.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Notes to Editors:

The Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) is the peak body in Australia representing the retail travel industry. Founded in 1957, AFTA represents the majority of travel agents in Australia and includes all of the major travel agency groups.

AFTA's role is to uphold the interests of members in matters relating to the operation of all travel agencies in Australia. In broad terms, these issues are ones that are not addressed by agent chain or corporate entities on behalf of their members, and are ones that involve the industry as a whole.

Further information about AFTA may be found at www.afta.com.au