

For immediate release

Travel Industry Transition Plan Consultation Draft Released

SYDNEY 23 AUGUST 2012: Today the Chair of the Policy and Research Advisory Committee of the Council of Consumer Affairs Officials of Australian and New Zealand (CAANZ) released the Travel Industry Transition Plan (TITP) Consultation Draft (attached) for stakeholder comment.

The TITP outlines the proposed actions which the Ministers will consider at the next scheduled Ministerial meeting to be held in December 2012. In the document 5 key recommendations are outlined which include the repealing of Travel Agents Legislation and the winding up of the Travel Compensation Fund (TCF). There are three other recommendations which will underpin the new arrangements under which Travel Agents will be regulated. These include; A greater reliance on generic consumer protection legislation, an alignment with Tourism Policy and the possible introduction of voluntary industry accreditation.

The paper calls for a range of questions to be answered and AFTA will once again commission the expert advice of KPMG to assist in preparing a detailed and specific industry response to this Consultation Draft transition plan.

“The Ministers and the bureaucracy with the consumer affairs portfolios across the country should be congratulated for bringing this document together” said Jayson Westbury Chief Executive AFTA.

“After what has been the best part of 4 years of review we finally have a clear plan for how the travel industry can make a transition from the current expensive and over burdensome national scheme to a more future proof and appropriate framework for the regulation of travel agents” Westbury said.

“AFTA will ensure that our response is appropriate, consistent with our previous submissions and responsive to the questions that need to be addressed within the paper” he said.

“I am really delighted that after all this time we now have something tangible to work with. The plan will ensure that the most appropriate and robust structure for the future can be developed which will deliver for consumers, travel agents and the governments of Australia”, said Westbury.

MEDIA RELEASE

Submissions are required to be provided to the Chair of the committee by 1st October 2012.

More detail may be found at:

www.consumerlaw.gov.au/travelreform.aspx

Ends.

Attachment: TITP_Public_Consultation_Draft.pdf

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

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