

LIZ'S TRAVEL INDUSTRY UPDATE

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Esperance, Western Australia

My personal thoughts:

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Written by Liz Hutson

As I write this, sadly, many parts of Australia are in Lockdown. If you are affected, I so hope that you are getting out and about as appropriate to enjoy the area that you live in.

My family have found so many wonderful walks that we didn't know existed prior to 2020! We also head out on scooters, bicycles and play tennis. Then when we're not working or home-schooling, we are baking and have almost completed every jigsaw in the house!

All images taken are from my personal trips!

As much as this is a terrible time for our country & economy, it's best to dwell on the good and more positive things!



Thailand

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

My Company is confident that we will be travelling internationally in 2022, I hope this is the case, as the Government has said the best way to get there is by getting vaccinated. I personally had my second vaccination at the beginning of June, but I know it is a personal choice, so please discuss with your GP first.

For those interested, here is the link to make an appointment locally:

1. Click the link: www.hotdoc.com.au
2. Go to the blue box:
 - > Find a COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment near you
 - > Input your Postcode
 - > Click Find an Appointment
3. Click on Availability (under the suburb box):
 - > This will bring up the Pharmacy or Medical Centres that have the earliest availability (on my check the Medical Centre in Balgowlah was available within 2 weeks)

At this stage it hasn't been confirmed yet, but a Vaccination Passport looks like it might be the way to travel going forward.

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*My company is
confident that
we will be
travelling
overseas in
2022*



Auckland, New Zealand

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*We offer
COVID-19
cover though
Covermore
(underwritten
by Zurich
Insurance
Group)*

TRAVEL INSURANCE COVID-19

The Travel Insurance Company that we offer - Covermore (Owned and Underwritten by Zurich Insurance Group) do have a COVID-19 cover, please see below:

COVID PRODUCT

No cover for:

- *Government Restrictions (including border closures) - I don't know of any Company that covers this*
- *Quarantine (as condition of entry)*
- *Cruising*

Cancellation (Pre-departure):

- *If you are diagnosed with COVID-19*
- *If you are quarantined as result of being a close contact*
- *If you are denied boarding due to failed COVID-19 test*
- *Essential worker leave revoked*
- *Relative/business partner catches COVID-19 (AU/NZ)*
- *Person you are staying with catches COVID-19 (AU/NZ)*
- *If accommodation is closed for cleaning (AU/NZ)*
- *If holiday activities cancelled due to COVID-19 (AU/NZ)*

During Travel:

- *Overseas medical expenses if diagnosed with COVID-19*
- *If you are quarantined as you have caught COVID-19*
- *If you are quarantined as you are a close contact (AU/NZ)*
- *Can't stay with Family / Friend as they have COVID-19 (We pay up to \$150/night for accommodation)*
- *Early return to AU for unwell relative (AU/NZ)*
- *Alternative accommodation shutdown for cleaning (AU/NZ)*
- *Cancellation costs if pre-paid activity is cancelled due to COVID-19*
- *If accommodation is closed for cleaning (AU/NZ)*
- *Transport delay / re-routing / cancellation (AU/NZ)*

DFAT status must not be 'do not travel' at time of travel for COVID-19 benefits to apply.



Gold Coast, Queensland

TRAVEL INSURANCE COVID-19 cont

If you are thinking of travelling within Australia this year, I would highly recommend taking out an Annual Multi-Trip Policy. Not only does this cover you for COVID-19 (as above), it also covers you for cancellation in case of other illness or injury (discuss pre-existing medical conditions with Liz).

Other cover includes luggage and excess on rental cars (which saves you having to pay \$30-\$50 a day direct to reduce the excess with the car hire company). Another coverage (not so well known), is that it will cover up to \$2,500 insurance excess on your PERSONAL CAR if you are doing a Road Trip! To be classed as a trip, you simply need to have pre-paid 1 night's accommodation.

An Annual Multi Trip is only slightly higher than getting insurance for 1 trip (example below):

A 14 day cover for a family of 4 to Tasmania will cost \$226 total, whereas an Annual Multi Trip for a family of 4 is \$258 - only an additional \$32!

Covermore have a great policy --> If you are unable to travel due to border closures (Domestic & International -->) they have been offering full refunds or a credit valid for 2 years.

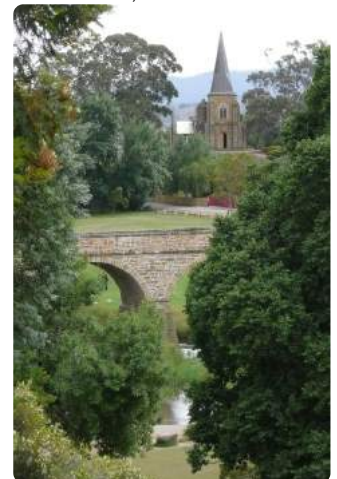
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... I would highly recommend taking out an Annual Multi-Trip Policy

Constitution Dock Hobart, Tasmania



Richmond, Tasmania





Cable Beach Broome, Western Australia

AIR BNB

I just wanted to put a warning out as I've had many clients who have been caught in this situation recently.

They have booked an Air BnB property in Australia and are unable to travel due to border closures. The property is denying a refund or a credit. This is not the case for all properties, but I've heard of enough cases now to put the warning out!!

The ACCC require that all local tourism operators (Airlines, Cruise Companies, Car Hire, Hotels, Holiday Homes etc) must either offer a credit or a refund.

Air BnB however is an International Company so, unfortunately, these same rules do not apply. Please Beware! Our Company now offer many properties, holiday homes and hotels within Australia.

Please contact me if you would like a quote, as I can advise what their policy is and look after the cancellation and/or credit if that situation arises.

Stanwell Tops, New South Wales



Broome, Western Australia



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*... ACCC
requires all
tourism
operators offer
a credit or
refund*



Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

VIRTUOSO

Our office is now a Virtuoso Agent. What does this mean for you? We now offer many Premium Hotels & Cruise Companies within Australia and Overseas that include extra benefits:

For example, I looked at the Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney (a luxury Hotel in the Rocks), for Saturday Night 6th November for 2 people and could get:

Deluxe Partial Harbour View Room A\$468 for the night with the following inclusions:

- Upgrade to next room category (Full Harbour View Room) on arrival, subject to availability
- Daily breakfast for two guests per bedroom, in restaurant
- \$100 USD equivalent Food & Beverage credit to be utilised during stay (not combinable, not valid on room rate, no cash value if not redeemed in full, applicable in the Restaurant or bar, not applicable for room service, excludes Mini Bar)
- Early Check-In / Late Check-Out, subject to availability
- Complimentary Wi-Fi

- On Expedia, the same room with breakfast and wifi was \$740

- On Booking.com it was a little better at \$594 but no breakfast and no \$100 USD food & beverage credit was included

Booking with us you're not only **saving \$\$**, you're also getting **extra benefits**. Next time you're looking to travel, please drop me an email and I can check whether I can do better than what you've seen.

Rambagh Palace, Jaipur



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Booking with us you're not only saving \$\$, you're getting extra benefits



Ovation of the Seas, Mystery Island, Vanuatu

Cruising

I have many clients that can't wait to start cruising again, in fact, I can't wait myself!

Currently the Australian Government has restricted cruising to the smaller ships only (ie up to 100 passengers and crew) which has resulted in there only being a small number of cruises operating this year around Australia.

If anything changes with this policy though in the foreseeable future, I will advise in a further email.

Conclusion

Well I think that's about everything I wished to cover in this newsletter. Please feel free to drop me a line at any time if you have questions or want to discuss any ideas about international travel when the borders open again.

Plus remember that I can most certainly help you when you are looking to book your Domestic Travel arrangements.

Please read below for more important information from a Report on Australia's transition out of COVID-19.

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*Remember to
contact me for
all your
domestic
travel
arrangements!*

Sun Princess



Legend of the Seas



Star Clipper





Sydney Harbour Bridge, New South Wales

COVID-19 REPORT UPDATE

In amongst the noise of lockdown news and the recent Olympics, a critical piece of research was released in Australia by the Doherty Institute that will help chart the course of our recovery as a country.

I have provided a summary of the report below with the advice given to the Federal Government to transition Australia's national COVID-19 response. I have also provided an update on vaccinations, being key to the country's recovery.

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*The Doherty
Institute's
Report
provided
advice to the
Federal
Government*

Let's rewind a bit - what is the Doherty Institute?



****The Doherty Institute **** is a joint venture between The University of Melbourne and The Royal Melbourne Hospital. The team works on infection and immunity through a broad spectrum of activities. This includes discovery research; diagnosis, surveillance and investigation of infectious disease outbreaks; and the development of ways to prevent, treat and eliminate infectious diseases (such as COVID-19!).

What report did they release and why is it important?

You'll recall the Federal Government's four-phase roadmap, that charts Australia's course to be able to 'live' with the COVID-19 virus. Australia is currently in Phase A of the National Plan - Vaccinate, Prepare and Pilot. Phase B, the Vaccination Transition Phase, will be achieved when 70% of the eligible Australian population is vaccinated (as of today Australia has 17.7% of its population fully vaccinated).

The Doherty Institute was the brain power behind creating this roadmap, providing the modelling and data that pinpoints the targets Australia will need to reach in terms of vaccination rates.



Rottneest Island, Western Australia

COVID-19 REPORT UPDATE cont.

On Tuesday 3 August, the Institute and the Federal Government released the report to the public.

The report is important because our government has set vaccination targets based on the modelling, to enable our country to open up for international travel.

What did the report say?

- Until vaccination rates reach 70% any outbreaks will likely see “rapid and uncontrolled” growth, leading to a significant number of deaths and severe cases.
- The Doherty modelling shows that isolating and quarantining will be critical to control COVID-19 at 70% or 80% vaccination rates, and if they fail we’ll need lockdowns.
- Once the vaccination coverage reaches 70% and 80%, the rate of severe infections is reduced, but under an “uncontrolled outbreak” scenario, there will still be deaths. To compare with other causes of death, it would place COVID-19 below Influenza which currently ranks as the number 9 cause in Australia at just over 4,100 deaths annually.
- On a positive note, modelling showed a steep decrease in people developing serious symptoms or dying from COVID-19 in communities with higher immunisation rates.
- The research highlighting the need for a “strategic shift” to targeting young adults who were most likely to transmit the virus.
- It also recommended the required time between doses is reduced.

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... vaccination targets based on the modelling, will enable our country to open up for international travel



Sailing out of Sydney Harbour



COVID-19 REPORT UPDATE cont.

So where is Australia at with vaccines?

On Monday the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) granted a provisional approval of the Moderna mRNA vaccine for 18+ Aussies and our government has inked a deal to bring 25 million doses over the coming months. Ten million will be allocated for the first jab with the remaining 15 million for booster shots. Batches of 3 million doses are also due to arrive starting October through to December. This is promising for Australia as our supply accelerate and more vaccinations hubs open around the country, like the one announced in Brisbane.

Current vaccination rates by state (as of 10 August) | estimated date to reach 80% of 16+ years vaccinated based on 7 day rolling average. This will obviously change as vaccination numbers increase/decrease and may be pressured by personal choices on vaccines:

QLD: 1.0M total doses | 20 Dec 21

VIC: 1.8M total doses | 18 Dec 21

SA: 963K total doses | 22 Dec 21

TAS: 351K total doses | 28 Nov 21

WA: 1.2M total doses | 19 Dec 21

ACT: 156K total doses | 01 Dec 21

NT: 158K total doses | 22 Dec 21

NSW: 1.7M total doses | 25 Nov 21

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*... the TGA has
granted
provisional
approval of
the Moderna
vaccine for
18+ Aussies*



Butchart Gardens, Canada

COVID-19 REPORT UPDATE **cont.**

NSW Update

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian said she wanted half the state's adult population — about 6 million people — to have been inoculated by the end of the month. She flagged some lockdown restrictions in New South Wales and its surrounds may be eased if we reached that target.

While around 30,000 doses a day were being administered in NSW in June, the number has leapt to around 66,000 a day last week and could hit 6 million vaccinations by 2 September.

What about the rest of the world?

Looking to the northern hemisphere, we are seeing rapid acceleration of vaccinations in some countries, such as Canada going from 5% fully vaccinated to 60% between 1 June and 1 August. France went from 17% to 52% and Italy went from 20% to 52%. Countries with over 70% first vaccinations include: Canada, Spain, UK.

In a recent report released by Morgans, it showed that in markets where restrictions are relaxed or removed, there is an immediate rise in travel demand. For example, in the USA travel demand to Hawaii has recovered to 88% of pre-COVID levels as soon as the state dropped quarantine rules for fully vaccinated domestic travellers. Very similar to our domestic recovery in Australia.

In the meantime, please stay safe, I hope we get back to the new 'normal' soon.....

Liz Hutson



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*Here's to
travelling
again soon!*”