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Fri 20 Aug 10

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EDITORS: Bruce Piper and Guy Dundas E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au Ph: 1300 799 220



Bearly Believable

Canada

MFS insolvency

ADVISERS to former Stella Travel owner MFS Limited raised the option of putting the firm into liquidation seven months before the firm collapsed, according to a testimony by deputy ceo Craig White in court this week.

The proceedings also included an email from an MFS staffer in Jan 2008 concerned about the possible sale of Stella to CVC Asia Pacific.

"Why would we sell 65 per cent of our most valuable asset for bugger all?" the email said - just weeks before CVC paid \$400m for a controlling stake in Stella.



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STAR ALLIANCE MEMBERS 💸

Airlines reveal Bali plans

THE three carriers vying for additional Indonesia capacity have detailed their plans for the destination in submissions for the capacity to the International Air Services Commission.

A new bilateral has seen 4000 extra seats made available, with Qantas initially applying for nearly all of it (*TD* 27 Jul) for new Jetstar services.

The JQ move was followed by applications for extra Bali flights from Strategic Airlines (*TD* 29 Jul) and Pacific Blue (*TD* 09 Aug), creating a disputed situation meaning the airlines must justify their requests for the capacity.

Jetstar has confirmed it intends to utilise the 3898 seats it's seeking with four new weekly Melbourne-Denpasar A330 flights, as well as ten extra PER-DPS A320 services and five weekly Perth-Jakarta-Singapore A320 flights.

Qantas would codeshare on the Jetstar flights, and interestingly the submission also confirms that

Celebrity interview

SEE page five of today's issue for our latest celebrity interview, this time with Australian music media icon lan "Molly" Meldrum.

There's also an opportunity to win a fabulous DVD copy of 'Countdown: The Wonder Years'.

Jetstar plans to reconfigure its A320-200 aircraft from 177 to 180 seats from 31 Oct 2011.

The submission from Strategic Airlines says that despite launching only recently a limited schedule, it has achieved "extraordinary sales" on its Bali flights, with load factors of 82% in Jul, its first month of operation.

Strategic says there's also growing business travel to Bali, as well as growth in "on-day/next-day" reservations, with plans for an additional 11 services to allow passengers to "travel on a full service Australian airline every day of the week".

And Pacific Blue says its request for 2340 extra seats is based on confidential "actual operational plans" which will further expand its presence in the market.

DJ says it wants to continue to maintain competition in the Bali market, where its operations have seen fares lowered and demand significantly stimulated.

The IASC is now seeking further submissions on the Bali requests, which are due by 01 Sep.

Today's *Travel Daily*

Travel Daily has five pages of news & photos today, plus a full page of jobs from travel specialists AA Appointments.



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HERE are the latest snow falls, depths and ski lifts in operation across the region:

- Falls Creek 1.17m / 14 lifts
- Perisher 1.18m / 46 lifts
- Thredbo 1.33m / 12 lifts
- Selwyn 80cm / 10 lifts
- Mt Buller 72cm / 18 lifts
- Mt Hotham 97cm / 12 lifts
- The Remarkables- 1m/ 7 lifts

THAI Airways International has

Squirrell, CTM Perth; James Bleby,

named the winners of its recent

Student Flights Little Bourke St;

Aaron Blakemore, Harvey World

The Travel Store, Collingwood.

Travel Ashmore; Kelly Clarke, BCD

Travel Sydney; and Janene Rubens,

COMPAGNIE DU PONANT

agent iPad incentive as: Kelly

- Mt Hutt 2m / 5 lifts
- Cardrona 90cm / 7 lifts THAI iPad winners

JQ launch in-town check-in JETSTAR Asia is introducing an believe will work well with existing transport infrastructure

option for travellers to check-in for flights between Hong Kong and Singapore at two city locations.

Guests will be able to check-in at both Hong Kong Central and Kowloon train stations in-town for their JQ flight on the day of the service, at which time they will be issued with a boarding pass.

Jetstar Asia ceo Chong Phit Lian said: "We are constantly looking at ways to innovate and improve our product offering to our customers whilst still maintaining the lowest fares on all the routes we serve."

The new free service will be rolled out this month and available during MTR Airport Express opening hours, and closes 90mins prior to flight departure time.

A spokesman for Jetstar told TD today if the service was successful in Hong Kong it would be "viewed closely in terms of its future potential in other markets".

"This approach in Hong Kong we

and customer demand within the Hong Kong market," Simon Westaway said. At this stage there are no plans

to introduce the in-town check-in at Australian cities, he indicated.

AFL season ending

THERE'S just two rounds of football remaining in the 2010 AFL season, which means competition in *TD*'s exclusive travel industry Footy Tipping competition is now really heating up.

John Harrison of Air New Zealand is leading the comp with a healthy six point buffer between himself and equal 2nd place sitters, Lisa Clarke of Flight Centre St Peters and Natalie Hudson of Concorde Agency Network.

Tippers are vying for a fabulous first place prize of a trip to Dubai for 2 including flights with Emirates and two-nights accom at the stunning Jumeirah Beach Hotel.

The second place prize is a Carbine Marquee package for 2 to the 2010 Melbourne Cup, courtesy of Keith Prowse and Accor, while third place is two nights accom at any Travelodge Australia hotel.

\$US25m fine for AA

ONEWORLD carrier American Airlines is facing the possibility of being slapped with a massive US\$25 million fine by the Federal Aviaiton Administration for lapses in maintenance procedures.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the looming fine follows AA's grounding of its entire fleet of 300 MD-80 jets in Apr 2008, which resulted in widespread flight cancellations.

New Cairns hotel

BEST Western has launched its newest property in Queensland's Tropical Far North, the Best Western City Sheridan in Cairns.

The 3.5-star boutique hotel is a 10min walk from Cairns' CBD.

Window

STUDENT Flights is today making the most of the pre-election hype, indicating it will offer special discounts to customers who show their support next week for the victorious leader.

Clients who come in wearing Tony Abbott-style "budgiesmugglers" or Julia Gillard red hair are being offered \$50 off any bookings they make.

AIR traffic control authorities in the UK have issued an official warning to pilots, telling them to be on the lookout for a gigantic escaped vulture.

Gandalf, a tame seven-year-old Ruppell's Vulture, was part of a display at a zoo called 'World of Wings' in Scotland on Tuesday when she caught a big thermal and disappeared into the sky.

The bird has a three metre wingspan and can reportedly soar as high as 30,000 feet.

Gandalf's trainer said he didn't think there was a major threat to high altitude aviation because she would likely be flying low in search of food.

SOUTH Africa's iconic vuvuzela trumpets have really made the big time after they shot to fame during the Soccer World Cup.

The annoying buzzing plastic instruments, which provide a constant drone during the football matches, have gained an entry in the latest edition of the Oxford Dictionary of English which was released yesterday.

Vuvuzelas are defined as a "long plastic instrument, in the shape of a trumpet, that makes a very loud noise when you blow it and is popular with football fans in South Africa".

TWO teenage boys have been arrested after allegedly scaling the fence of an upmarket resort in Florida and pooing in the pool.

A police spokesman confirmed that the pair have been charged with "commercial burglary" after illegally entering the Vinoy Renaissance Resort & Golf Club and defecating in the water.

"As a result the Vinoy is going to have to drain the pool and clean it thoroughly," he added.



Analyst. Applications close Sunday 29 August 2010



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Best Economy Class. Business Traveller Middle East Awards 2010



All the glamour of Noumea



ABOVE: Travel2 and Aircalin hosted this lovely group of agents on a famil to Noumea recently, with the group taking in the sun, sand and surf of New Caledonia.

drink at the famous La Roof Bar in Anse Vata, from left are: Kristen Chew, Free To Travel; Manisha Kumari, Lido Group; Allison Leach, HWT Circular Quay; Hayley Russell, HWT Singleton; Lauren Ashes, Travel2; Ema Loi, Worldwide Travel: Sarah Gaunt, Travelscene Camden; Tanya Littlejohn; Ticket To Travel and Keitha McLean, Travelscene Merimbula.

U Hotels Phuket

ABSOLUTE Hotel Services has announced it will be broadening the portfolio of its U Hotels & Resort brand in Thailand, striking a deal for a new 140-room and suite development in Phuket.

U Phuket will be positioned in a secluded area of Nai Harn beach and is slated to launch late 2011.



McGrath also said that should a

MEANWHILE, sister Travel Corporation tour operator Insight Vacations says its 2011 Europe itinerary pricing is already locked in for travellers who book now from its Preview Flyer (TD Mon).

QF/SAA codeshare green light

THE International Air Services Commission has issued a draft decision which re-authorises the continued Qantas/SAA codeshares on the South Africa route until 31 Dec 2011.

The ruling stipulates that QF and SAA must price and sell their services on the route independently, as well as withdrawing from all IATA tariff coordination activities in relation to air fare levels between Australia and South Africa.

QF must also "take all reasonable steps to ensure that all passengers are informed, at the time of ticket reservation, of the carrier actually operating the flight," the IASC ruling stipulates.

The commission said the approval will remain in effect only while the carriers together operate at least 12 return weekly flights to South Africa.

Close monitoring of the route is also part of the deal, with Qantas ordered to submit quarterly reports to the IASC on the number of codeshare seats available for sale and sold by it on each of SAA's operated services and vice versa, as well as its quarterly yields for all passenger classes on the flights.

The IASC evaluation of the route took into account a significant reduction in passenger demand to South Africa during the global financial crisis.

The weakness in the South African economy has also seen Australian outbound travellers on the route exceed South African visitors for the first time in almost twenty years in 2009.

The commission said the entry of V Australia on the Melbourne-Johannesburg route had "clearly

Gal car options up

TRAVELPORT has launched a new interface connection with MicronNexus to provide Galileo and Apollo GDS connected agents access to 40 localised car rental suppliers around the globe.

Greece bug warning

THE Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade is warning travellers bound for Greece to cover up and wear insect repellent after a number of cases of the infectious West Nile Virus have been reported.

stimulated competition," giving Qantas and SAA an incentive to "compete much more vigorously with each other".

Interestingly, the IASC also concluded that public benefits of the code share include a "positive effect on the Australian aviation industry by increasing Qantas' profits on the route".

Submissions are invited about the draft decision, with interested parties having until 02 Sep to lodge any feedback.

WIN AN INDULGENT **ESCAPE AT MEDINA**



Medina Apartment Hotels is the perfect place to indulge - Australia style. Stay in your own private apartment with all of the conveniences of home and the space to spread out and relax.

This week, *Travel Daily* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a More Indulgence @ Medina package, courtesy of Medina Apartment

This fantastic prize valued at \$980 includes: two nights accommodation in a one bedroom apartment at a Medina Apartment Hotel at any one of Medina's great Australian city locations, late checkout of 12 noon and a special Kangaroo Island Eucalyptus gift pack from Trelivings by evodia. Your stay will leave you feeling refreshed and beautifully fragrant.

With 22 locations across Australia, Medina is the perfect location for your next getaway. Search, select and book online at www.medina.com.au

For your chance to win this amazing package, simply send in your answer to the following question:

> In 25 words or less, tell us what your ultimate indulgence is

Email your answers to: medinacomp@traveldaily.com.au

The most creative answer wins! Click here for terms & conditions





Quantas corrected THE Qantas website no longer invites visitors to "Join Quantas Club" (TD yesterday), with the embarrassing typo rectified Pictured having a quiet sunset shortly after it was highlighted in

Trafalgar prices firm

TD's 'Window Seat' column.

TRAFALGAR has reacted swiftly to comments from a rival tour operator about 'locked in' 2011 Europe pricing (TD Wed), today announcing it would guarantee 2010 prices for 2011 itineraries.

Managing director Paul McGrath said the offer "safeguards against any currency fluctuations or surcharges which may increase the cost of the tour next year."

The move follows the recent release of Trafalgar's Europe & Britain 2011 Summer Preview program, which will be available in printed format from early Sep.

"Over the past year we have seen the consumer booking cycle decrease to weeks and increase again to eight to 10 months.

"As consumer confidence grows, so to do booking lead times which means our Summer Preview program is timely and well suited to the current market," he said.

Europe 2011 tour decrease in cost clients will receive a refund on the difference.

EK A380s to HKG

EMIRATES this morning announced Hong Kong as its 11th A380 destination, with daily superjumbo flights to HKG from Dubai to commence on EK384/85 via Bangkok from 01 Oct.



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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Travel Specials, Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au.

The InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto is offering a 'Discover Melbourne' package priced from \$295 per night. It includes one night's accom, buffet breakfast, valet car parking and more. For an extra \$150 guests can upgrade to Club InterContinental. The deal is valid for travel to 29 Oct. See intercontinental.com/melbourne.

Coral Seas has a four night stay at Sonaisali Island Resort in Fiji at up to 50% off, now priced from \$339pp. The deal includes daily brekkie, transfers, welcome cocktail and free jungle cruise, free scuba pool splash and free non-motorised water sports. It's on sale until 30 Sep and for travel between 01 Nov to 15 Jun 2011, blackout periods apply. Visit www.coralseas.com.au.

Club Med is offering up to 30% off bookings made by 30 Sep at select resorts, including the new 5 Trident Kani, Maldives. Packages are available for travel until 30 Apr 2011. See clubmed.com.au.

Value Tours has a five night Spring ski special at Mt Hutt in New Zealand, priced from \$446pp staying at the Brinkley Resort. The deal is valid for travel to 12-30 Sep, and includes five days car hire and a four day lift pass. For more info call 1300 361 322.

BNE/SYD report record no's in Jul

BRISBANE and Sydney Airports have reported record passenger movements during the month of Jul, signaling strong signs of returning growth.

BNE welcomed 1,792,000 people during the period, topping the airport's previous record last month, by 30,000 travellers.

Domestic numbers rose 6.9% on last year to 1,387,717, supported by a 9.4% growth in International visitors to 404,284 at Brisbane.

"This month has shown significant recovery in arrivals, with visitors from Japan, Taiwan and China again eager to visit Brisbane and Queensland," said Brisbane Airport Corporation ceo and md Julieanne Alroe.

Travel Special of the Week



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Qantas, Vigin Blue, QantasLink, Tiger, Jetstar and Brindabella Airlines have all "stepped up" services and capacity to Brisbane in recent times, Alroe said.

MEANWHILE, Macquarie Airports said today that "international outbound growth remains strong" at Sydney Airport, in particular for China, Japan and Korea.

SYD domestic figures for Jul were up 10% year-on-year to 2.08 million, while int'l numbers surged 7.8% to 1.003 million.

Year-to-date int'l numbers are up 8.7% on Jan-Jul 2009 at SYD.

Snowy seeding push

RESORT operators in Australia's Snowy Mountains have launched a push for the Snowy Hydro Cloud Seeding Project to move from a scientific trial to a permanent operation in time for the 2011 winter snow sports season.

An independent scientific assessemnt of the scheme has shown that seeded winter storms produced an average of 14% more snow, with no evidence of any negative effects after six years of detailed monitoring.

Currently the trial only seeds about half of winter storm fronts, and the Australian Ski Areas Association said making it a permanent fixture would boost tourism and the alpine economy.

Healthcare apps

A HELPFUL new iPhone and iPad application has just been launched, which allows travellers to find quality healthcare providers in East and Southeast Asian countries.

Designed for tourists to Tokyo, Shanghai, Manila, Singapore, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City the 'mPassport' app locates appropriate medical services for those in need.

The app can find an English speaking doctor or dentist and request an appointment; uses GPS to find the shortest route to medical services; translates medication brand names and key medical terms and phrases; and assesses the right emergency services for the problem in question.

The App is available on iTunes and complements other mPassport products covering Barcelona, Budapest, Dublin, Florence, London, Madrid, Paris, Prague, Rome, Vienna, Cape Town, Nairobi, Buenos Aires, Lima, Mexico City, Quito, Bermuda, Nassau, Beijing and Hong Kong.

Air NZ Jul stats up

AIR New Zealand has reported a 7.5% year-on-year increase in pax carried on Tasman/Pacific services to 271,000 during Jul 2010.

Passenger demand was up 7.8%, backed up by a 0.7% increase in capacity, while load factors rose 5.6 points to 84.5% during the period.

Overall Air NZ Group passenger numbers were up 7.2% on last Jul, to 1,155,000 movements.

AR 2 for 1 promo

AEROLINEAS Argentinas has released a special '2 for 1' promo for AerolineasPlus members where 8,000 points will buy two tickets between Buenos Aires and Sydney.

The deal is also available on flights from Buenos Aires to Iguazu and Montevideo, valid for travel 01 - 30 Sep 2010.

This week *TD* revealed that Aerolineas Argentinas would be ramping up services from thrice to five times weekly during the Northern Summer.

Fiji pretty sitting

SONAISALI Island Resort has announced it will offer a 'Kids package' including free babysitting, when guests stay for three or more nights.

The deal includes eight hours free sitting per bure per day and can be confirmed when booking.

Katrina exhibit

A NEW exhibit dubbed 'The Newseum' is scheduled to open in New Orleans next week which is dedicated to the destruction Hurricane Katrina caused in the city five years ago.

The exhibition features pieces told from journalists who overcame dangerous odds to get the news out to the public - newseum.org.

Sheraton unveiled

SHERATON on the Park, Sydney has this week unveiled a \$250,000 refurb of its bar and terrace.

The outside terrace now offers al fresco dining and live piano entertainment and features views over Hyde Park.

Travelport get together



ABOVE: Travelport hosted an event last night to thank some of its clients for their ongoing support and loyalty.

The dinner was held at The Trust in Flinders Lane, and was attended by 45 people.

Each client was presented with an award to recognise their

excellent performance.

Pictured above at the event in Melbourne *from left* are: Sean Cummins, Country Manager Travelport; Roland Jabbour, Cedar Jet Travel; Sally Holman, Victoria Account Executive Travelport; Chris McGetrick, Bayview Travel; Tracey Nelson, Bayview Travel.



TRAVEL DAILY EXCLUSIVE

Celebrity Interview with lan "Molly" Meldrum



This issue *Travel Daily* catches up with Australia's popular music critic, journalist, record producer and musical entrepreneur, Molly Meldrum. He's best known for his Stetson hat and his work on the ABC music program Countdown from 1974 to 1987 where he was the talent co-ordinator, on-air interviewer and music news presenter.

What is the highlight of your career? Goes back a way. It was in 1969 when I produced Russell Morris' hit song *The Real Thing* which led to me working in the UK for The Beatles' Apple Music company. Also in 1974 launching the first *Countdown* show.

What is your favourite holiday spot? I've got three: Phuket, New York City and Cairo. Phuket. Love the people and the culture. NYC Best city in the world! Vibrant and energetic. Music, theatre, food and lots more! Cairo. Am fascinated with all things Egyptian. Have been there twenty-seven times to date!

What is one thing you cannot leave home without?

My laptop computer. Great for writing, Skyping and research.

What is the most common item you leave at home?

My insanity!

Do you have an embarrassing travel story you could share with us?

Arrested at LAX, cuffed and sent back to Oz on the return UA flight. Just for ticking the wrong box! Gary Manuel [then at United Airlines] got me sorted and I was back in LA a week later.

Do you have a travel tip you can provide our readers with?

Be absolutely certain to tick the right box! What three features do you look for when choosing a hotel?

Homely, totally central to my work commitments and a great cocktail bar.

What is your favourite piece of luggage and why?

None really. I travel light and just about always need to buy a new suit case to return with my overseas purchases. Then I give the case to a friend.

Who is one person you wish you could sit next to on a plane?

Barack Obama, but not sure how to get invited on to Air Force One. (I was seated next to Dame Joan Sutherland once on a flight from London to Melbourne. Was too scared to sleep in case I snored!)

What is one food you would like to see added to an airline menu?

Irish Stew on toast.

Do you have a favourite childhood travel memory, and if so can you share it?

My first flight - from Kerang in country Victoria to Essendon with a connecting flight to Sale. Vivid memory of the air hostess passing around barley sugar. Remember that?

Travel Dally is today offering a fantastic prize to one of our lucky readers. Countdown - The Wonder Years is a DVD/CD packed with original TV performances by Aussie stars including Hush, John Paul Young, AC/DC, Supernaut and the Ted Mulry Gang. To win, be the first to send in your answer to the following question to mollycomp@traveldaily.com.au:

What is the name of Molly Meldrum's Dog (pictured above)?



Tiger bosses sell

THE ceo of Singapore-based Tiger Airways has offloaded a significant part of his shareholding in the carrier, as part of an institutional placement in conjunction with other major investors in the airline, Indigo Partners and Ryanasia, which is controlled by the family who founded Irish carrier Ryanair.

The S\$125m deal covered about 66 million shares, with the carrier not detailing how much each of the shareholders had sold but emphasised that Davis, Indigo and Ryanasia still remain substantial shareholders in the carrier.

Singapore Airlines didn't participate in the placement, and continues to hold 33% of Tiger.



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New Thai campaign

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand has launched a new 'Bangkok Welcomes You' promotion in conjunction with Mastercard, with cardholders eligible for various hotel and merchant bonuses to 30 Nov.

It's valid for both domestic and international Mastercard holders, aiming to stimulate both domestic and inbound tourism.

'YOU DESERVE TAHITI'... TELL US WHY AND WIN

To celebrate 'You Deserve Tahiti' month, throughout August, *Travel Daily* is giving travel consultant readers the chance to win an incredible seven-night holiday to Tahiti for two people, courtesy of Tahiti Travel Connection.

This fantastic prize includes:

- Return economy airfares on Air Tahiti
 Nui for two
- Two nights twin share accommodation at Manava Suite Resort Tahiti in a Standard Room (one pre and one post Manihi Island)



- Five nights' accommodation at Manihi Pearl Beach Resort in a Beach Bungalow
- Return economy flights for two from Tahiti to Manihi Island
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For your chance to win this incredible holiday...

Tell us in 50 words or less why you deserve to win a seven-night sensational escape to one of the most beautiful places on the planet – Tahiti

Feel free to support your case with <u>1 image only</u>. Entries must be accompanied by the agent's full name, agency name, phone contact and email contact.

Email your entries to: tahiticomp@traveldaily.com.au

Note: Only one entry per agent/consultant.

Click here for competition terms & conditions







BA 777-300ER delay

BRITISH Airways has pushed back the inaugural service of its new 777-300ER aircraft, which is now scheduled for a flight between London Heathrow and Mumbai on 03 Sep.

Current GDS displays indicate that the new aircraft will also be phased in to operate on BA flights from London to Delhi, Chicago and Dubai, with a 14 First, 56 Business, 44 Premium Economy and 183 Economy seat layout.

Cambodia resort

A NEW master plan has been created for the development of a new "Asian Riviera" on Cambodia's Koh Rong island.

The project envisages an international airport, a cruise terminal, golf courses, shopping and a range of 3 to 5 star resorts.

Strict guidelines will ensure that development is sustainable with Koh Rong described as Asia's "first environmenally planned resort island".









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MELB (SOUTH EAST)-SALARY PACKAGE TO \$50K+ BONUSES Increase your base salary and have the opportunity to earn commissions! Seem too good to be true? It's not! Working for one of these street front retail agencies will see you serving a wide range of clientele with many tailor made holiday itineraries to some exotic & off the beaten track destinations! If you value your service & believe your consulting skills are worth more, apply now!

CALLING ALL RETAILERS! LEISURE TRAVEL CONSULTANT PERTH – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$78K (OTE)

This web based travel company is continuously growing and requires experienced retail travel consultants to join their fast paced team. By servicing your clients efficiently & with confidence, you can be earning in excess of \$70,000 working only 37.5 hours per week! NO 12 hour days, 7.5 hours per day ONLY! This is not a joke or scam; consultants are currently earning these salaries with ease! Mon to Fri only too!

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF TRAVEL PRODUCT SUPPORT CONSULTANT **BRISBANE CBD - \$42K OTE**

Sick and tired of retail consulting? Wonder how the industry actually ticks? If so this is the role for you. This global product team is looking for an experienced travel consultant to join their support team. Assisting consultants with booking queries and questions along with maintaining databases will open your eyes to the industry. In addition enjoy access to top industry training and development opportunities. Join this fun and funky team today and leave consulting behind!