

# THE FACTS ON REFUNDS FOR TRAVEL AGENT CUSTOMERS

## Important Information for Consumers

The Travel Agents' Association of New Zealand (TAANZ) is supporting the travel agency community, travelling public and travel suppliers during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and government restrictions imposed on the population and travel, travel agents are experiencing an unprecedented volume of enquiries to change or cancel travel plans.

We ask for your patience at this time, as your agent does their utmost best to manage an incredibly high level of requests, including yours.

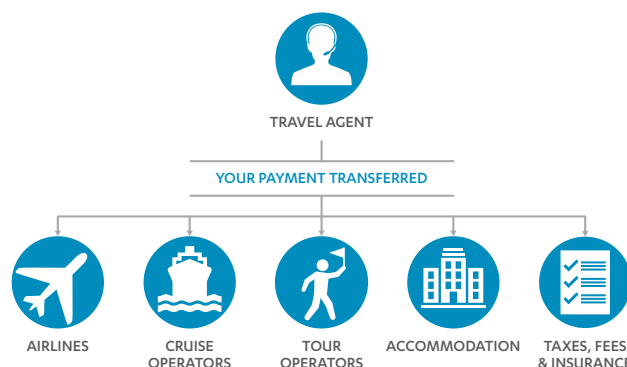
## AGENTS

Travel agents act as agents. When you make a booking, in almost all circumstances, the funds are transferred to the supplier and not held by the travel agent.

When you cancel a booking, the supplier, not the agent, determines whether you receive a credit or a refund depending on the terms and conditions of purchase.

If a refund is applicable, the agent has to wait for that money to be paid back to the agent before the agent is in a position to pass the money back to the consumer. If the end supplier is offering a credit, the agent is only in a position to offer a credit.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR MONEY AFTER YOU'VE PAID FOR YOUR HOLIDAY.



## DELAYS

Many airlines, cruise, tour companies and hotels, in normal circumstances, take up to 12 weeks to process refunds. If applicable, travel agents will pass on the refund to you as soon as they have received the funds back from the supplier. In the current environment, there are clearly significant delays on top of this, sometimes up to 3 months.

These delays are not the fault of the travel agent but are due to government imposed restrictions. Travel agents are facing an incredibly high level of requests and please understand that they are doing all they can in the face of this pandemic to service consumers as best they are able.