



PRESS RELEASE
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Travel Counsellors Australia expands its support team

Travel Counsellors has recruited five new staff members to join its head office team in Melbourne in order to support its growing number of agents and facilitate the company's continued success and expansion in Australia.

Since launching in August last year Travel Counsellors Australia has recruited over 20 experienced travel professionals to join its award winning team and aims to recruit over 70 by the end of the year. These agents run their own travel businesses from home and are supported by experienced staff members from its offices in Melbourne and international headquarters in the UK.

The five new staff members are Claire Kearns who joins as Recruitment Executive; Bronwyn Wallace who will also specialise in recruitment as well as business development for the agents; Dan Rowan will run the company's IT support desk; and Priscilla Lyons and Chris Moritz, who will work within Operations and Administration. These highly experienced new recruits join Australia General Manager Peter Watson and his team to bring the number of staff at its headquarters in Melbourne to nine. On average there is one staff member for four Travel Counsellors worldwide.

"We are delighted to be growing our head office team in Australia and this is really a true indication of just how well business is doing since our launch last year," says Peter. "As we grow we are dedicated to ensuring we provide our agents with an unrivalled level of support in all areas of their business, from administration and IT through to marketing and business development, and recruiting these professionals to our head office team will ensure this further. I would like to welcome our new staff members to the Travel Counsellors family and look forward to our continued success and growth as we empower more travel professionals from the industry to take control of their destinies and run their own businesses as Travel Counsellors."

Travel Counsellors has over 900 travel consultants operating across the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, South Africa and the US, as well as Australia. These agents are connected across the globe using state of the art technology including webcams so they can interact face to face with fellow Travel Counsellors and head office staff, an extensive intranet system with up to date sales figures and statistics, and the company's own TV webcast programme that keeps agents up to date and informed about the latest industry news and company updates. The company provides support to agents in all areas of their businesses and has a dedicated helpdesk and care team who are available to Travel Counsellors 24/7

Bronwyn Wallace joins the Travel Counsellors head office team in Australia with extensive experience within the travel industry. Having worked with Jetset Group in both Australia and New Zealand in the areas of training and business development before running her own training business for 10 years, Bronwyn will be focusing on the recruitment and ongoing business support of the company's agents in Australia.

"I was bowled over when I saw the level of support the company provides to its Travel Counsellors," says Bronwyn. "I am so excited to be working within such a dynamic and rapidly expanding company, and looking forward to helping our growing team of Travel Counsellors in Australia build their businesses as well as recruiting the best agents in the industry to join the Travel Counsellors family."



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About Travel Counsellors: Travel Counsellors PLC is one of the UK's largest independent travel companies with turnover at the end of its last financial year (Oct 31 2007) of \$A502million, a 21% increase year on year. Founded in 1994 it currently has over 900 travel consultants who work from home with the support of over 200 staff at the company's head office in Bolton. The company operates in the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, South Africa, Australia the US. In the UK Travel Counsellors places all customer money in a Trust account which guarantees a 100% refund in the event that a supplier collapses. Travel Counsellors was the winner of the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2003-2008, the technology category of the 2005 CBI Growing Business Awards and was voted Travel Agent of the Year by readers of the Guardian, Observer and Guardian Unlimited in 2006 & 2007.

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