

Statement to Australian Securities Exchange – May 5, 2022

# HIGH PROFILE INDUSTRY PLAYERS LINK TO CREATE INNOVATIVE NEW PREMIUM TRAVEL JOINT VENTURE

Flight Centre Travel Group (FLT), Goldman Travel Corporation and the Spencer Group of Companies have today launched an innovative new joint venture (JV) focussed on premium and business travel.

The high-profile Australian travel industry businesses have joined forces to create Link Travel Group, an invitation-only members' group dedicated to partnering with high quality travel companies to provide an innovative and compelling offering via travel supply, technology and business operations.

Link aims to work closely with carefully selected independent travel businesses who are highly regarded in the premium leisure and corporate travel sector in Australia.

Ownership of the JV will be divided between the three founding partners.

Goldman Travel joint managing director Anthony Goldman and Spencer Group of Companies founder Penny Spencer will sit on the JV's board of directors, alongside FLT's Danielle Galloway, the executive general manager of the company's premium brands, and other yet-to-be-appointed directors.

An independent general manager, Scott Darlow, has been appointed to oversee the business's day-to-day operations. Mr Darlow, a former Magellan Travel Group and Helloworld Business travel executive, has more than 25 years' experience in the aviation and travel sectors.

An additional advisory board, consisting of inaugural members, will also be created.

FLT will initially hold a 60% interest in the JV and will provide Link members in both the highend leisure and corporate sectors with a range of services, including access to its leading product and distribution capabilities at a time when considerable change is taking place.

## Comments from Anthony Goldman

"Link Travel Group represents the coming together of high-profile players within the travel industry to create a new way forward for travel companies around Australia.

"Link has been designed to help members thrive through business excellence and has been built on four key pillars:

- Transparency
- Integrity
- Prosperity; and
- Connection & collaboration.

"While we will link agencies to deliver compelling financial rewards, that is only the beginning of the journey. The future is about access to world class technology, innovative business solutions and workflow improvement tools, which we will deliver.

"It's also about working with recognised specialists in the industry to create better ways of doing business. Access to strong hotel and tour programs for the corporate and leisure markets, online booking tools for advisors and consumers, online travel advisory tools, advanced airline booking channels and relationship management programs are some of the instant benefits that are available to our members.

"We believe Link Travel Group will provide a compelling offering to its hand-picked members and their customers."

### Comments from Penny Spencer

"It is with great pleasure that we unveil the Link Travel Group.

"After a very challenging two years, the world is reopening and the travel industry overall – and the premium sector in particular – is starting to see meaningful signs of recovery.

"Our goal is to help travel businesses realise their commercial ambitions by offering highly attractive commercial returns, technology, support and strong leadership in the market.

"Membership of Link Travel Group will help our people capitalise on opportunities in the post-COVID world, while also helping them adapt to the changes that are taking place in our industry, particularly in terms of supply."

## Comments from Danielle Galloway

"Link will create change in the Australian travel industry. Our combined goal is to shape the future of travel by uniting the industry's progressive thinkers

"As invitation-only partners, businesses will benefit by leveraging Australia's largest travel agency group, while maintaining their own powerful brand identity and independence. We look forward to welcoming members to our exclusive Link Travel Group.

"We are also delighted to have secured Scott as our inaugural general manager.

"He is highly regarded nationally by both suppliers and agents alike and with high level experience across multiple agency business models, he knows which ones work the best for all parties."

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#### **About the Flight Centre Travel Group**

After starting with one leisure travel shop in the early 1980s, Flight Centre Travel Group (ASX: FLT) has enjoyed remarkable growth to become one of the largest and most diverse businesses of its kind in the world with a significant presence across the leisure, corporate and supply sectors. FLT now has company-owned operations in 26 countries and a corporate travel management network that spans more than 90 countries. Key leisure and corporate travel brands in Australia include Flight Centre, Travel Associates, Travel Partners, Travel Money, BYOjet, Corporate Traveller and FCM. FLT listed on the Australian Securities Exchange in 1995 and currently has a market capitalisation in the order of \$4.5 billion.

#### **About The Goldman Group**

Established by Tom Goldman OAM in 1983, The Goldman Group is a multi-award winning, third-generation family owned and operated travel advisory group with in-depth experience in all facets of luxury leisure and business travel. A leading member of the exclusive Virtuoso\* network, the Goldman Group work with clients in the SME and large corporate and leisure space. The business is managed by Anthony and David Goldman, with over 100 team members in Sydney, Melbourne, Gold Coast, Adelaide and Brisbane. The Goldman Group of travel companies includes Goldman Travel Corporation, Travelcall, The Cruise Centre by Travelcall and SmartFlyer Australia.

#### **About the Spencer Group of Companies**

Spencer Travel was founded by Penny Spencer in 1998 as a Corporate Travel Management company with a small, high-end leisure client base. Delivering essential corporate travel management services to their clients, Spencer Travel became known for offering quality service and going above and beyond. Over the years, Penny identified

ways to grow the business by adding niche areas, in leisure travel in particular: In 2007 Penny added a family travel brand, Travel with Kidz, and in 2011 opened Shire Travel in Caringbah incorporating Travel with Kidz. In 2012, she added to her leisure portfolio with the purchase of Travel Creations in Edgecliff and re-branded this business to Spencer Travel Eastside. In 2013 Penny purchased Benchmark Travel in Kogarah and re-branded it Spencer Travel Southside. In 2020 all leisure offices were re-located to Spencer Travel's head office in Mascot, Sydney and in 2021, all were consolidated under a new brand, Spencer Travel Leisure. Today, they pride themselves on offering bespoke travel solutions and dedicated experts to support each client. Their hand-picked team of experienced professionals are extremely well travelled and knowledgeable in corporate, luxury and bespoke travel with a focus on customer service and client satisfaction. They have won numerous awards and have grown the business over the last 24 years.

Flight Centre Travel Group Limited's board has authorised this announcement.