

Carnival Australia: Application for Further Exemption under Section 44(2) of the *Age Discrimination Act 2004* (Cth)

Further information provided to the Commission on 22 March 2023

- 1. With reference to paragraph 2.3(f) of Carnival's current application, is Carnival now in a position to provide the Commission with the number of security incidents recorded during the Schoolies Period since the grant of the last exemption in October 2019? If yes, can you please provide these numbers along with some details of what those security incidents involved? We wish to gain a better sense of what types of incidents have taken place in more recent years and how Carnival handles those incidents.*

In December 2019, there were a further 11 security incidents across another six Australian home-ported Carnival vessels. Therefore, there was a total of 35 security incidents across nine Australian home-ported Carnival vessels during the month of December 2019. Since the introduction of its Responsible Adult Requirement, Carnival continues to experience only a small handful of security incidents across its Australian home-ported ships each month during the traditional 'Schoolies' period (i.e. from 1 November to 31 January annually). Carnival considers that the Responsible Adult Requirement is a key feature of its broader package of measures designed to minimise excessive behaviour during the Schoolies period, especially in relation to guests aged 17 to 19 years.

The security incidents during the December 2019 period were varied, however, the majority were related to one-off instances of excessive behaviour. Carnival does not consider these incidents to be attributable to large scale Unauthorised Events or excessive behaviour engaged in by groups. All incidents are handled by Carnival's onboard security team and are reported to the relevant shoreside authorities, where required.

- 2. At paragraph 3.20 of Carnival's current application, Carnival notes that a number of other hospitality providers in popular Schoolies locations continue to impose conditions on school leavers during Schoolies Periods. Can you please provide us with some specific examples and details? The Commission doesn't intend to refer to any specific hospitality providers in its decision, but is asking for this information to better inform our decision making.*

Please see table of a small sample of third party hospitality providers with “Schoolies” related booking conditions attached.¹ These providers were located through a quick Google search.

- 3. The Commission is interested to know whether there is, in more recent times, a significant demand among students graduating high school to celebrate “Schoolies” on cruise ships. While we understand that there was such a demand 10 years ago, does Carnival have a view on whether the appetite to celebrate “Schoolies” on a cruise ship may have reduced (or otherwise changed) over the years?*

Carnival firmly believes that there continues to be a strong demand for “Schoolies” cruises and that cruises operating during the “Schoolies” period (albeit they are not promoted as “Schoolies Cruises”) continue to be a popular option for school leavers. The Responsible Adult Requirement is key to reducing the likelihood of unmanageable large-scale “Schoolies” events and promotes an understanding that Carnival will not tolerate improper behaviour and under-age drinking on its cruise ships as part of “Schoolies” celebrations. Carnival remains concerned that large group bookings of school leavers could turn certain cruises operating in the months from November to January into ‘de facto’ “Schoolies” cruises thus impacting the safety and enjoyment of other guests and crew.

- 4. We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on demand for cruise travel in the last two years. Can Carnival comment on if the effects of the pandemic is likely to have more lasting impacts on demand for cruises going forward, especially during the Schoolies period?*

[response confidential]

¹ This table is confidential and cannot be publicly released.

Further information provided to the Commission on 1 August 2023

1. What is Carnival's usual policy regarding minors booking on Carnival Cruises?

All minors under 18 must travel in the same cabin as an adult aged 18 years or over. However, to accommodate families cruising together, children may occupy a separate cabin to their parent/legal guardian, including an inter-connecting cabin, provided one child in the cabin is 16 years or over.

2. Are 16- and 17-year-olds permitted to book unaccompanied by an adult over 18 years of age?

No, 16 and 17 year-olds are not permitted to book unaccompanied by an adult aged 18 years or over. A booking and payments on a booking can only be made by a guest aged 18 years or over.

3. If not, what are the requirements for such passengers?

All minors under 18 must travel in the same cabin as an adult aged 18 years or over. However, to accommodate families cruising together, children may occupy a separate cabin to their parent/legal guardian, including an inter-connecting cabin, provided one child in the cabin is 16 years or over.

4. The website advertises a Teen Club for 15 to 17 year olds, are you able to provide any information regarding this program, e.g. its popularity, whether it runs in the November to January period etc.

This program is optional for teens aged 15-17 and runs year round. A teen's parent/legal guardian (must be aged 18 years or over) is required to register their teen into the program, however, once registered teens may come and go from the program throughout the cruise. Registration in the program is on a first-come-first-served basis as places may be limited.