



## **BYATA's Position Statement on Compliance Restrictions for Backpackers whilst in COVID-19 Level 4**

BYATA is working to support its membership with MBIE and TIA in support of government measures to stop the spread of Covid19.

New Zealand's Backpacker industry whilst operating under Level 4 COVID-19 protocols currently provides two main types of accommodation under MBIE guidelines.

1. Accommodation provided for workers engaged in essential services. This seems to be localised to areas such as of BOP, Hawkes Bay and Golden Bay
2. Accommodation providers with International guests who have been unable to leave the country. Localised to main port cities such as Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown.

BYATA supports all backpacker hostels who are providing accommodation to International visitors who are unable to leave NZ, as well as those international workers engaged in other essential service provision such as the agricultural industry. I.E. fruit pickers, health care workers etc.

Backpacker hostels have been confirmed as providing an Essential Service under MBIE guidelines - our members continue to operate under very strict protocols and management, such as minimising physical interactions amongst staff and customers, ensuring an appropriate health, hygiene and safety measures are in place and restricting activity to only what is essential during the Alert Level 4 period.

BYATA has been working with and continue to work with MBIE and TIA on ways to support our members to operate successfully in accordance with the restrictions. Having pulled together a "Guideline for Backpackers to meet the Essential Services". This gives direction and clarity on COVID-19 NZ Level 4 compliance in order to protect the Hostel owners and the education of International Guests still here in New Zealand.

In addition, we encourage Hostels to engage with NZ Police to inform them of the measure they are taking to prevent the spread of the virus and their individual compliance.

We ask all New Zealanders to be supportive of the tourism industry at this incredibly difficult time. Join us in displaying manaakitanga to our visitors, to be calm and patient as we work through some of the issues that have been highlighted in the media recently during this unprecedented event.

Kia kaha.