



Media Release

11 February 2016

## SureSave advises agents of policy for pregnant women

SureSave, one of Australia's leading insurance providers in the agency channel, has announced that pregnant women who are due to travel into Zika affected areas, are covered for pre-trip cancellation coverage benefits, under certain conditions\*. This follows last week's declaration by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that the Zika virus is a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern'.

This is applicable to SureSave policies purchased before 26 January 2016, for pregnant women and their partner and/or dependents, listed on the same policy. Cover is available for cancellations or itinerary rearrangement\*. The extended coverage means eligible travellers who negotiate with their airline, hotel and tour provider to obtain a refund, but have any non-refundable deposits that are lost, can lodge a claim with SureSave.

Talbot Henry, National Sales Director at SureSave, says:

"SureSave policies are designed to respond to specific unforeseen events including outbreaks of infectious diseases. Due to the possible transmission to unborn babies, SureSave recognises the concerns of pregnant women in any trimester, planning to travel to Zika affected areas, with DFAT advising pregnant women to consider postponing or cancelling their trip. We understand that this is a sensitive issue and so we are providing this policy option to protect our customers."

"We encourage all agents to be aware of our policy regarding this issue, in case they receive any queries. This extraordinary extension of cover applies to pregnant travellers only, as the Zika outbreak has been classified as an unprecedented health emergency. Other travellers should still be wary of the effects of the Zika virus and take all necessary precautions to avoid mosquito bites."

SureSave's tips for avoiding mosquito bites include:

- Wear light coloured long-sleeved and long-legged clothing (i.e. mosquitoes are often attracted to black leggings);
- Cover exposed areas of skin with a strong insect repellent, of at least 30% DEET;
- Sleep in enclosed and insect-proofed accommodation, or under a mosquito net;
- Get rid of any stagnant water sources outside your accommodation as this is a breeding ground for mosquitoes; and
- Mosquitoes are active during the day and night, so take precautions at all times.

"As this is an unusual circumstance, we urge agents and customers to contact SureSave's customer service centre to discuss your individual case and eligibility for cover. Our purpose at SureSave is to provide answers and solutions to people's travel problems and concerns, and so we want to ensure our customers understand this issue and get help where possible," says Henry.

For more information on Zika affected areas, visit the Centers for Disease Contact and Prevention (CDC), <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/>. For more information on SureSave, visit <https://www.suresave.com.au/>.

*\*Terms and conditions of the policy apply. Contact SureSave for further information.*



## **ENDS**

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### **Notes to Editors:**

SureSave is a leading travel insurance provider that offers 'help that's designed for travellers'. SureSave provides World Assistance through its agent support team, claims and in-house 24/7 Emergency Assistance operation, 'WE Assist'.

SureSave covers more than 300,000 travellers each year in Australia, is 100% Australian owned and is a coverholder at Lloyd's.

### **Media Enquiries:**

Annaliese Vella  
Account Executive  
S2i Communications  
(02) 9262 4766  
[Annaliese@s2i.com.au](mailto:Annaliese@s2i.com.au)