



## Meeting of the Council for International Education

Thursday 5 December 2019, Canberra

The Ministerial and Expert Members of the Council for International Education (the Council) welcomed new members at their fourth meeting in Canberra today, chaired by the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Education.

International education experienced its fifth year of consecutive double digit growth in 2018–2019, contributing \$37.6 billion to the Australian economy and supporting 240,000 jobs. The Council recognised the significant contribution international education continues to make to Australia's economy, society and international standing, and acknowledged significant progress against the goals of the National Strategy for International Education 2025 (National Strategy).

### Council Membership

The Council welcomed new members Professor Linda Kristjanson AO, Professor Helen Bartlett, Professor Michael Wesley, Malcolm Baigent, Janelle Chapman and Ahmed Ademoglu and recognised the changes in membership since they last met, with the departure of six Expert Members. The Council Chair thanked former members Professor Kent Anderson, Brett Blacker, Tracey Horton, Gerald Lipman, David Riordan and Bijay Sapkota for their significant contribution to advancing the goals of the National Strategy.

### Refreshing the National Strategy

Looking forward, with the National Strategy reaching its mid-point, the Council agreed to refresh the National Strategy in the first half of 2020 to ensure it continues to accurately reflect the sector's changing operating environment. After years of consecutive growth, Australia's international education sector faces new challenges, a changing geopolitical environment, increased competition from traditional and non-traditional players, and the importance of ensuring international education becomes a sustainable feature of Australian society and the economy. The Council will look at how the National Strategy enables the sector and government to negotiate challenges and grasp emerging opportunities to support the sector's long term sustainable growth. This will determine priorities for the Council for the next five years and drive the work of the Expert Members on key strategic issues. Expert Members will advise government on this refresh in the first half of 2020 and develop an implementation plan in support of international education. This will complement the review of the Australian International Education 2025 roadmap, administered by Austrade.

### Next steps on the refresh of the National Strategy

Expert Members will work with the sector to understand and capture issues in the changing operating environment while identifying opportunities to support the sector's long term sustainable growth. To this end, Expert Members will hold a series of stakeholder consultations across regional and metropolitan areas in February and March 2020, and will also seek written responses to a consultation paper over this period.

Further information on how to engage with the refresh process will be communicated to the sector in early 2020 and be made available on <https://internationaleducation.gov.au>.

## **Successes in 2019**

In 2019 the Council was pleased to deliver on key strategic priorities committed to last year. These included advice on ways to strengthen and deepen engagement with important education partners, China and India; engaging with the sector on growing international education in regional Australia; exploring opportunities to expand education, training and research engagement with Latin America; supporting strategies to support the growth of international education in the vocational education and training and schools sectors; and driving work to identify improvements that can be made in the English language sector. These are among the achievements noted in the Council's annual report to the Prime Minister.

## **Plans for 2020**

The Council agreed to its work plan for 2020, with a focus on:

- The refresh of the National Strategy;
- Enhancing the student experience;
- Growing regional engagement;
- Applying the Nation Brand to the education sector;
- Maintaining practical visa settings;
- Engaging alumni and supporting student mobility; and
- Delivering on the potential of Australia's vocational education and training and schools sectors.

## **Ministerial Members**

- The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Education (Chair)
- Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
- Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business
- The Hon Karen Andrews MP, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology
- The Hon David Coleman MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs

The Council acknowledged the Hon Jason Wood MP, Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs, attending today on behalf of the Hon David Coleman MP.

## **Expert Members**

- The Hon Phil Honeywood (Convenor), CEO, International Education Association of Australia
- Professor Helen Bartlett, Vice Chancellor and President, Federation University
- Professor Linda Kristjanson AO, Vice Chancellor and President, Swinburne University
- Professor Heather Cavanagh, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Engagement), Charles Sturt University
- Professor Michael Wesley, Deputy Vice Chancellor (International), The University of Melbourne
- Mr Ahmed Ademoglu, President, Council of International Students Australia
- Mr Malcolm Baigent, Executive General Manager, University Partnerships Australasia, Navitas
- Ms Janelle Chapman, Executive Director, TAFE Queensland International
- Ms Karyn Kent, Chief Executive Officer, StudyAdelaide
- Ms Kathleen Newcombe, Chief Executive Officer, Sarina Russo Group of Companies
- Mr Derek Scott, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Haileybury