



MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Thursday 25 November 2021, Canberra

Ministers and Expert Members of the Council for International Education (the Council) met for the sixth consecutive year. The focus this year was the work undertaken to address the impacts of border closures and releasing the *Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030* (the Strategy).

The Council recognised the absence of international students has been keenly felt in communities and on campuses around Australia. With the support of Commonwealth, state and territory and local governments, together with education providers, the sector worked hard to maintain pedagogical continuity and adapt to emerging trends. The Council noted that, despite these challenges, there is cause for optimism with significant numbers of students commencing study offshore in 2020 and 2021 and a gradual return to onshore study anticipated in 2022.

Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030

The release of the Strategy delivers on a commitment to chart the course for a more resilient and sustainable future for Australian international education for the next ten years.

The Council noted that Expert Members of the Council led significant public consultations on the Strategy over 2021. Over 1,600 stakeholders participated in webinars and workshops and 124 written submissions were received.

The Hon Phil Honeywood, Convenor of the Expert Members of the Council, presented advice on the Strategy to the Minister for Education and Youth in July 2021. The advice provided the foundations of the new Strategy released by the Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth.

The release of the Strategy marked a milestone for the Council and the international education sector. The Strategy will deliver on four key priorities for international education:

- Diversification of student cohorts, courses and modes of delivery, to support sustainable growth, manage risk and enhance student experience.
- Positioning international education to support Australia's skills needs.
- Students at the centre, and enhanced experience for both domestic and international students. This focus will include mental health support and awareness of working and living rights.
- Greater global competitiveness and growth underpinned by our strong governance and quality structures and frameworks.

In partnership with industry, education and government stakeholders, the Council will turn its focus to ensuring the successful implementation of the Strategy in 2022 and over the coming decade. This focus on oversight and implementation is reflected in updated Council Terms of Reference, which were tabled at this meeting. The Council will report annually to the Prime Minister on progress.

Successful implementation will require active and ongoing engagement between the Government and the international education sector, and the Council looks forward to active collaboration in the years ahead.

Ministerial Members

- The Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth (Chair)
- Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women
- The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
- The Hon Alex Hawke MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs
- The Hon Stuart Robert MP, Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business
- The Hon Angus Taylor MP, Minister for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction
- The Hon Melissa Price MP, Minister for Defence Industry, Minister for Science and Technology

Expert members

- The Hon Phil Honeywood – CEO, International Education Association of Australia (Convener)
- Professor Helen Bartlett – Vice Chancellor and President, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Professor Linda Kristjanson AO
- Professor Michael Wesley – Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), The University of Melbourne
- Malcolm Baigent – Executive General Manager, University Partnerships Australasia, Navitas
- Janelle Chapman – Executive Director, Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC)
- Karyn Kent – CEO, StudyAdelaide
- Kathleen Newcombe – CEO, Sarina Russo Group of Companies
- Derek Scott – Principal and CEO, Haileybury
- Tomas Johnsson – CEO, UniLodge
- Oscar Zi Shao Ong – President, Council of International Students Australia