



MEETING OF THE EXPERT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

30 April 2021, Canberra

Expert Members held their third meeting of the year on 30 April 2021. The meeting focused on the consultations for the new Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030 (the Strategy). Expert Members welcomed the Government's announcement of a package to support Australian international education and training providers most affected by COVID-19 and border closures, including regulatory fee relief, as well as targeted support for private English language and non-university higher education providers to develop new education products and expand delivery to new markets online and offshore.

The meeting highlighted the launch of the consultations on the Strategy by the Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth, as chair of the Council for International Education, on 31 March 2021. This included a focus on the role international education plays in: generating revenue for institutions and the economy; bringing social and diplomatic benefits; delivering education to support skills needs in Australia and globally; and enhancing the learning experience of Australian students. Expert Members are leading consultations with stakeholders, including government, providers, student representatives, peak bodies, industry boards, and state and territory governments. Recently, the Expert Members led a series of webinars drawing on speakers from across the sector with over 1,400 participants. These webinars examined a range of topics, including diversification of Australia's international education to new regions, recognition of Australian qualifications offshore, and Australia's value proposition as education becomes more globalised. These discussions will ensure the Strategy sets a vision for the future of Australia's international education.

Expert Members reflected on submissions and feedback received to date, noting that submissions on the strategy are due for completion by 12 May 2021. Participants and stakeholders have indicated their strong interest in the development of a long-term vision to enhance and grow a more diversified and sustainable sector, place Australia's value proposition and learning experience at the forefront for students, and ensure the sector addresses and supports future Australian and global workforce skills needs. The consultations so far have received positive feedback from the sector and the community, and this feedback will shape the new strategy. Expert Members determined plans for further targeted consultations in May, including face-to-face workshops in each major city across Australia. These consultations will focus on the goals and actions needed for all areas of the international education sector to support the implementation of the Strategy.

The next Expert Members meeting is scheduled in June 2021.