



BOND UNIVERSITY

Professor Tim Brailsford
Vice-Chancellor and President

Bond University
Queensland 4229 Australia
Telephone: +61 (0)7 5595 1050
Facsimile: +61 (0)7 5595 1026
Email: vc@bond.edu.au
Website: www.bond.edu.au
ABN: 88 010 694 121

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Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Temporary Migration
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Re: *Senate Select Committee on Temporary Migration*

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Inquiry into Temporary Migration. In examining the impact temporary migration has on the Australian economy, wages and jobs, social cohesion and workplace rights and conditions, Bond urges the Committee to carefully consider the effect temporary migration policy changes may have on the international education sector, particularly post study work rights.

There is clear evidence that post study work rights is one of the key factors international students consider when deciding on a study destination. More than three-quarters of respondents to the International Education Association of Australia International Student Survey 2018 stated that the opportunities to work in Australia after study were an important influencing factor in their decision to study in Australia.

One only has to look to the United Kingdom to see the results of ill-considered policy change had on international education. The closure of the post study work scheme in 2012, in an attempt to drive down immigration numbers, had a significant impact on the UK's attractiveness as a study destination. After losing significant market share, post study work rights have been reinstated in 2019 and the UK is receiving an immediate benefit.

In 2018-19 international education was worth \$37.6 billion to the Australian economy and supported more than 250,000 Australian jobs. In our home state of Queensland, the international education sector injected \$ 5.38 billion into the economy. On the Gold Coast, the international education and training sector contributed \$988 million and supported 4,750 jobs in the region.

International students bring substantial economic, social and cultural benefits to Australia. They make an important contribution to our skilled workforce and enrich our communities. When international students return home, they become ambassadors creating powerful relationships between nations and further strengthening the attractiveness of Australia as a tourist and education destination.

As the United Kingdom re-enters the international student market with highly competitive visas, and the reputational impacts of the recent bushfires and coronavirus border restrictions take hold, universities are facing challenging times. Any diminution of post-graduate work rights or tightening of temporary graduate visa rules would only further entrench uncertainty in the market and undermine the delivery of a high-quality education experience consistent with the national brand.

Yours sincerely

Professor Tim Brailsford
Vice-Chancellor and President