



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Education, Skills and Employment**

Our Ref IS21-000024

Deputy Secretary

Ms Lyn Beverley  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee  
The Senate, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

**Department of Education Skills and Employment's submission to the Committee**

Thank you for your email of 22 March 2021 to Dr Michele Bruniges AM, Secretary of the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE), inviting a submission to the *Inquiry into opportunities for advancing Australia's strategic interests through existing regional architecture*.


The department's international engagement, policies and activities support the national interest by strengthening strategic alliances, enhancing regional security, and delivering on Australian Government priorities.

Through multilateral fora such as APEC, ASEAN, G20 and UNESCO, the department engages with international partners on issues of education, skills, and employment to build mutual capacity and boost Australia's global influence. DESE's engagement with these fora deepens Australia's ability to enhance cooperation, providing opportunities to share and influence policy development, positioning Australia as an influential partner of choice, particularly with the Indo-Pacific region. DESE works in partnership with all government agencies, particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to support these efforts through existing regional architecture, by contributing an influential voice on contemporary global education, skills, and employment issues.

We hope this information is of assistance to the Committee and its deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Rob Heferen

 29 April 2021