



Australian Government

Department of Education and Training

a/g Deputy Secretary
Dom English

Mr Jeff Norris
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth
Department of the House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Via email: jsctig@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Norris

Thank you for your letter of 30 October 2018 to Dr Michele Bruniges AM, Secretary, Department of Education and Training (DET), inviting DET to make a submission to the Joint Committee on Trade and Investment's inquiry into Austrade's role in attracting investment in Australia.

DET welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry. While the focus of this inquiry is on investment, DET would like to highlight the critical role Austrade plays in supporting international education, Australia's third largest overall export and largest services export. In 2017, the international education sector contributed \$32 billion and an estimated 240,000 jobs to the Australian economy. In addition to economic benefits, international education also brings academic, social and cultural benefits to Australian education institutions, industry and communities.

DET works closely with Austrade, underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding, to support Australian international education and to deliver the *National Strategy for International Education 2025* (the National Strategy) and the *Australian International Education 2025* market development roadmap. Our two agencies do this both through cooperation and engagement in Australia and through an extensive network of offshore Counsellors and Trade Commissioners.

Australia is a global leader in international education. After the US and the UK, Australia is the third most popular destination for international students, with over 626,000 students studying in Australia in July 2018. The sector has experienced sustained growth of approximately 11 per cent each year over the past five years but the global international education environment is changing. Competition is growing as other economies become increasingly aware of the benefits of an internationalised education system.

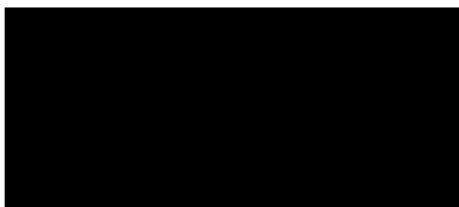
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The ongoing success of Australia's international education sector relies on our ability to continue to offer world class qualifications and a quality student experience, as well as to diversify both our education offerings and our international education partners. As the agency with responsibility for international education policy and strategy, DET works with our regulators, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and the Australian Skills Quality Agency (ASQA) to ensure the quality of education and student support being delivered to international students. In addition, DET is responsible for Australia's world leading international student protections under the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2012* and *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018*. DET also engages at a government-to-government level, bilaterally and multilaterally, to identify education policy and regulatory barriers that might impede Australia's access to key global markets.

Austrade complements this work through its role in marketing and promoting study in Australia and Australian education and training internationally. Austrade's Trade Commissioners play a valuable role in establishing and maintaining people-to-people links overseas and promoting the advantages of the Australian education sector in established and new markets. A key example of this is Austrade's role in engaging with offshore education agents, who facilitate over 70 per cent of Australia's international student enrolments. On-the-ground engagement is important to ensure agents provide high quality advice to prospective international students so they can make informed decisions. Austrade also facilitates the flow of information and market insights to the international education sector, particularly through its subscription *Market Information Package* for Australian providers and the *Study in Australia* website for prospective international students.

In the context of a changing global international education environment, it is critical that Australia enhances our efforts to remain a world leader and to ensure Australians continue to enjoy the benefits that international education brings. DET looks forward to ongoing engagement with Austrade to support this outcome.

Yours sincerely



Higher Education, International and Research
Department of Education and Training
28 November 2018

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