



**Australian  
Chamber of Commerce  
and Industry**

ABN 85 008 391 795

T: +61 2 6270 8000

info@acci.com.au

www.acci.com.au

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## **Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

### **Inquiry into Australia's tourism and international education sectors**

[jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au)

#### **Response to Questions on Notice**

- 1. The recommendation is that the government partner with Australian business to provide work integrated opportunities and so on. I don't know what you mean, because actually when we look at it the barriers are not with government they're with business, and business attitudes. Business is constantly putting on restrictions saying that we'll only offer these opportunities to permanent residents or citizens. It's been a cultural issue for business and that's one of the things post-study work rights are trying to overcome. But I'm not sure what you mean in practice. Could you maybe take that on notice and give us a supplementary note?**

ACCI in its submission to the inquiry has recommended that the government partner with business to deliver work-integrated learning (WIL) opportunities. Another suggestion within the submission is for universities to be better supported to engage with businesses to develop WIL activities. ACCI believes that a combined approach between businesses, university and government is crucial to create an effective and functioning WIL model.

In 2015, the National Strategy on Work Integrated Learning in University Education was launched. The Strategy was led by Universities Australia with industry stakeholders such as ACCI, Ai Group, Business Council of Australia and the Australian Collaborative Education Network. The National WIL Strategy aimed to increase opportunities to participate in WIL and recognise the benefits to students, employers, universities and the economy.

Although there has been progress in the development of WIL opportunities by higher education providers and employers, there is still room for improvement. As there is a range of inconsistent experiences for employers who choose to engage with a university,

#### **Canberra**

Commerce house  
Level 2  
24 Brisbane Avenue  
Barton ACT 2600  
PO Box 6005

#### **Melbourne**

Level 2  
150 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

#### **Sydney**

Level 7  
8 Chifley Square  
Sydney NSW 2000



To facilitate the participation of higher education providers and businesses in work-integrated learning (WIL) opportunities, there is a need for funding infrastructure such as brokering centres. These centres can serve as a platform to connect higher education providers with millions of businesses nationwide, making it easier to facilitate WIL programs.

The brokering centres could provide a range of services, such as identifying and matching appropriate industry partners with higher education providers, coordinating work placements, and providing ongoing support and evaluation of the WIL program. This can help to streamline the WIL process, making it more efficient and effective for both higher education providers and businesses.

By investing in infrastructure such as brokering centres, the government can support the development of WIL opportunities and improve the overall quality of higher education. This can also contribute to the development of a more skilled and job-ready workforce, benefiting both individuals and the broader economy.

## **2. Can I also get the comparison between the rental prices that students pay in this country compared with other countries?**

ACCI is not in the position to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the rental prices that university students in Australia compared with other countries.

A brief indicative assessment of the accommodation page of the four universities listed below that provide on campus students residences for a single room with a shared bathroom and kitchen facilities has come up with the following:

University of Sydney: AUD \$326 per week<sup>1</sup>

Columbia University: USD \$282.72 per week (\$10,461 late August – mid-May<sup>2</sup>)

University of Toronto: CAN \$400.20 per week (\$13,607 September- April<sup>3</sup>)

University of London: GBP £243.04 per week<sup>4</sup>

ACCI would strongly caution against an assessment based purely on the above figures and would suggest a more comprehensive assessment be undertaken before drawing comparative data conclusions. For example, the cost of tuition would also be of consideration for an international student when selecting country, something not touched upon in these figures.

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<sup>1</sup> University of Sydney, [Queen Mary Building](#).

<sup>2</sup> Columbia University, rate structure

<sup>3</sup> University of Toronto, [UTM Residence Application Guide 2023-24](#).

<sup>4</sup> University of London, [Bonham Carter and Warwickshire House](#)



**Has ACCI or any of the entities you're aware got any work about Australia as a destination point that might lead a little more seamlessly into the Pacific to support their economic growth? Is there any work being done on that at all?**

ACCI has been involved in a variety of undertakings to promote and encourage the economic growth of the Pacific. As the Australian business representative, ACCI has been a key partner of the International Chamber of Commerce in the development of a Centre for Entrepreneurship (COE) in the Pacific. The proposed COE will:

- build a more sustainable economic model for Pacific Island states by stimulating the growth of small businesses;
- connect local businesses with foreign partners; and
- increase the Pacific Islands' business connectivity to global markets.

ACCI President Nola Watson is the Vice-Chair for the World Chambers Federation representing Oceania and South East Asia. And former VCCI President Peter McMullin was recently elected President of the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

ACCI also works closely with individual chambers in the region. ACCI's Head of Trade and International relations, Chris Barnes met with the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape at APEC in Bangkok to develop closer links between ACCI and the Papua New Guinea Chamber of Commerce and Industry. As such, ACCI's efforts to work closely with individual chambers in the region are an important aspect of its broader mission to promote economic growth and development.