



Submission No 44

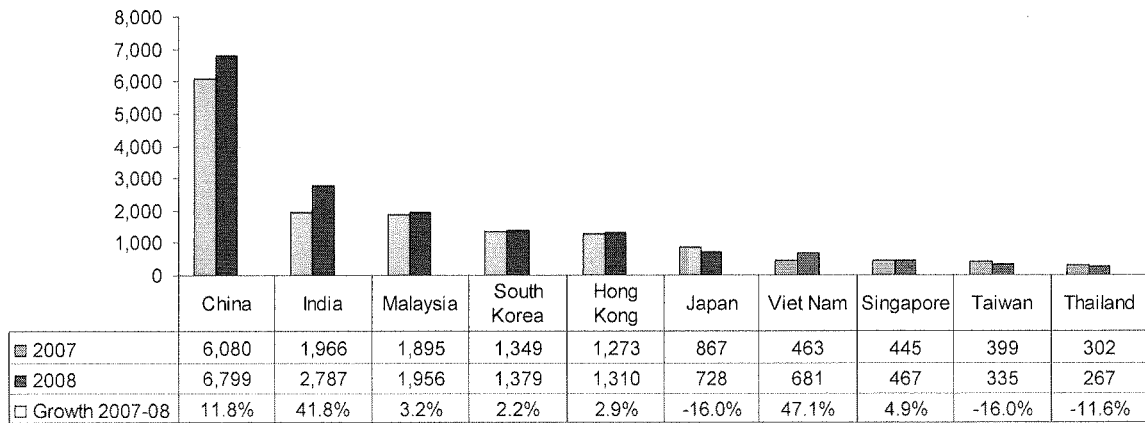
Inquiry into Australia's relationship with India as an emerging world power

Organisation: Education Adelaide

**Education Adelaide Submission
for the
Report on the Inquiry into Australia's Relations with India**

India is an important source market for international students with growing enrolment numbers increasing India's position from 12th in 2002 to our second largest source market in 2007. As indicated in chart 1 below, South Australia's top 10 source countries represent more than 83% of enrolments across all sectors. China and India lead much of the growth increasing 12% and 42% respectively during 2007-08*.

Chart 1: Growth of South Australia's Top 10 Source Countries, YTD June 2007-08.

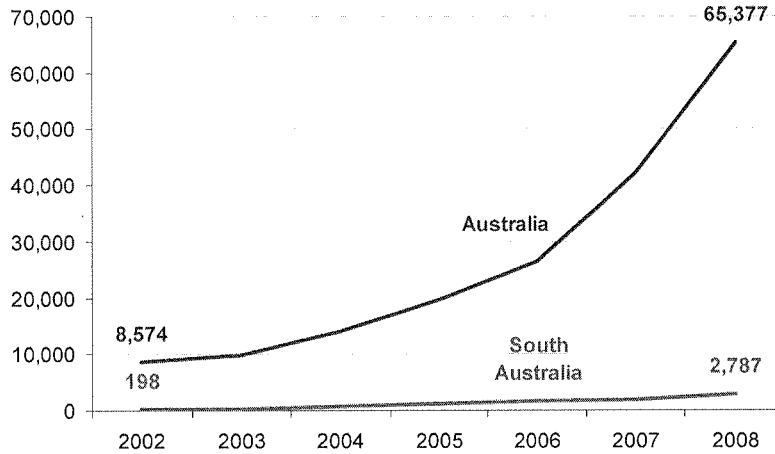


Across the country, students from Indian, as a share of total overseas students, have increased rapidly over the past six years, rising from 4% to 17%. Following national trends, 14% of all overseas students studying in South Australia are now Indian, a substantially higher proportion compared to just 2% back in 2002.

In 2002, there were 198 Indian overseas students studying in South Australia, from a national total of 8,574 (see chart 2). Since then, the numbers of Indian students studying in South Australia has grown to 2,787 as of June 2008, compared 65,377 across the nation.

* All statistics used in this paper are sourced from Australian Education International (AEI), International Student Statistics, and online pivot table June 2008.

Chart 2: Growth of Indian Student Numbers in Australia and South Australia, YTD June 2002 to 2008.

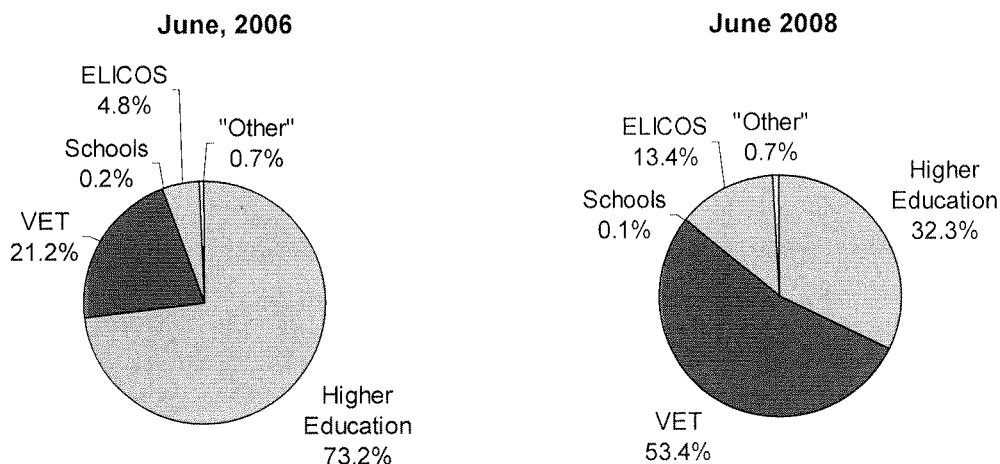


As per Education Adelaide's last submission, we noted the close correlation between Indian students and permanent migration. Since then, there has been an even more significant shift increase in the Indian student market in Australia, driven by an increasing number of students seeking courses designed to facilitate permanent residency.

Indian student enrolment numbers in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector have surged. Between June 2006 and June 2008, the VET sector in Australia increased by 107% to reach 122,890 students. Within this figure, Indian students contributed to 46% of the total growth.

In 2006, Australia hosted 5,609 Indian students studying VET courses. Two years later, this figure increased by more than 520% with 34,900 Indian students now enrolled in the VET sector alone. Chart 3 below shows the change that has occurred in the part two years

Chart 3: Indian Students in Australia by Education Sector.



Much of this growth has concentrated in NSW and Victoria, where 85% of all Indian VET students are studying. Increases are also reflected across the country with Queensland seeing a 585% increase this year, 285% for Western Australia and 543% for South Australia.

For the VET sector in South Australia, the fastest growing course is Human Welfare Studies, which has increased by 680.3% from 2007, with Indian students contributing 89% of the total increase.

Challenges and Concerns

With so many Indian students interested in permanent residency outcomes as well as education outcomes, we are concerned about their ability to find work within their fields of study and are committed to ensuring Australia and South Australia continues to be viewed as a quality education destination.

South Australia hosts 4.2% of the total Indian overseas student market in Australia but has only 2.2% of the Indian VET market. Despite this, South Australia has a relatively higher proportion of Indian students in our universities, representing 7.4 per cent of national total. Our education providers have concentrated their activities at the quality end of the market where institutions have traditionally maintained high quality agent management systems and delivered quality courses to qualified Indian students.

While the increase in Indian student numbers is welcomed in South Australia, there is also an increasing concern about the impact on brand Australia. Student diversification, studying and living experiences will be crucial for Australia's and indeed South Australia's international education industry to maintain sustainable, cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with India.

Education Adelaide, as the only destination marketing agency with a community support and student integration focus, recognises the importance of community acceptance for the continued growth of the international education industry.

Opportunities

South Australia's tertiary education institutions have many established relationships and linkages with many of their Indian counterparts. Key research collaboration areas include:

- Agriculture
- Viticulture, oenology and wine
- Biotechnology and genetics
- Engineering
- Computer science
- Health care

During South Australian Premier Mike Rann's most recent visit to India in February 2008, ICFAI (Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India) University signed a memorandum of understanding with UniSA to deliver dual business degrees. This agreement will significantly raise the profile of South Australia as a leader in international education and support the development and training of Indian students to pursue their careers around the world.

South Australian institutions are also committed to a Free Trade Agreement being negotiated between Australia and India. Our stakeholders have already identified a range of possible benefits including:

- Increase the level of cooperative research between the two countries, particularly those areas in which South Australian institutions have a competitive advantage (e.g. engineering, allied health, biotechnology, mining, oenology, viticulture and agriculture).
- Ability to establish commercial presence in India to deliver a variety of highly valued Australian education programs (for example: twinning programs, bridging courses, vocational education, professional development and training).
- Increase opportunities for Australians to work in India as more Australian qualifications are recognised and approved by the Indian government.
- Increase opportunities for Indian students to undertake their studies in South Australia through increased awareness.

Prepared by Education Adelaide
20 August 2008