



Update on the education sector's response to COVID-19 Global Reputation Taskforce

When the Global Reputation Taskforce (the Taskforce) was established, I asked the Chair to report to me on recommended actions over the medium and long term, by early March.

I am pleased the Taskforce has continued its constructive discussions and has now provided me with recommendations for the Government to consider. These recommendations draw from the already strong steps the sector and governments from all jurisdictions have undertaken to support affected students through recent crises.

The recommendations focus on:

- establishing a future framework for crisis management;
- ensuring timely, accurate communication material is made available;
- ensuring we remain a welcoming place for international students and the value of our educational experience is communicated globally;
- making available support services for international students to assist them during and following crises;
- ensuring regulatory flexibility during a crisis;
- managing visas and other border measures;
- ensuring flexibility in education delivery offerings, including capitalising on the effort and investment in high-quality online learning;
- supporting positive community sentiment; and
- Sector resilience to future shocks and disruptions.

On behalf of the Council for International Education, I thank Taskforce members for their time to date, and their unwavering commitment to the welfare and wellbeing of our international students and our own students learning abroad. Our work is not complete. There needs to be a continued focus on welcoming students back to Australia as soon as health conditions allow. In equal measure, we need to focus on enhancing our brand going forward so that Australia remains a destination of choice for international students. I look forward to continuing to work with the Taskforce and the international education sector through these difficult times.

The Hon Dan Tehan MP

Minister for Education

Chair of the Council for International Education