



Meeting of Expert Members of the Council for International Education 7 December 2018

The Expert Members of the Council for International Education met in Canberra on 7 December 2018, with the meeting convened by the Hon Phil Honeywood.

The Expert Members discussed the key findings and themes raised by the submissions to the recent consultation on [*Growing International Education in Regional Australia*](#).

Key themes from the submissions included low awareness of the range of course choices and study destinations across Australia and the need for better coordination and communication of existing choices and efforts. There were mixed views on the effectiveness of incentives, including visa incentives, with some submissions advocating expansion of post-study work arrangements and others signalling the risks associated with linking study destinations to visa conditions. Submissions also highlighted the problems associated with setting up a binary divide between metropolitan and regional Australia, suggesting that while students should be encouraged to consider a broad range of study destinations, the term regional does not translate well in some markets.

Expert Members agreed to follow up on these issues through holding a series of roundtables in key locations around Australia with education institutions, local governments, chambers of commerce and community leaders. Roundtables will be scheduled for early 2019.

The China Working Group held its inaugural meeting, co-chaired by Professor Kent Anderson and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) of UNSW, Mr Laurie Percy. Working Group members agreed the Terms of Reference and a six-month timeframe for advice to Council. Members also agreed to develop case studies to highlight the existing diversity, complexity and the mutual benefits delivered by Australia's education, training and research relationship with China, and to develop a report to the Council recommending specific actions that encourage a deepening and broadening of the relationship.

The India Reference Group, convened by the Hon Phil Honeywood and CEO of Bendigo Kangan Institute, Mr Trevor Schwenke, agreed to four key themes: branding of Australian education; two-way student mobility; joint research collaboration; and, opportunities in the VET sector. Members agreed to further develop the group's thinking on these themes through consultative workshops in early 2019, which will inform a final report for the Council for International Education.

Expert Members will next meet in March 2019.