



Meeting of the Council for International Education

9 February 2018

The Expert Members of the Council for International Education, convened by the Hon Phil Honeywood, met in Canberra on 9 February 2018.

The Council noted Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training, announced the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (the Tokyo Convention) came into force on 1 February 2018. The Council wholeheartedly supported this critical step in improving qualification recognition, a key underpinning of Australia's success in the international education sector, and committed to promotion of wider ratification.

The Student Service Delivery Working Group and the Marketing and Collaboration Working Group reported progress made against the strategic priorities of ensuring strong student support and achieving marketing and brand consistency (see below for detail). The Council developed a work plan for 2018 to progress other strategic priorities as outlined in the Implementation Plan. These include enhancing international cooperation through in-country research, research collaboration, two-way mobility and transnational education, and communicating the benefits of international education to the Australian community.

Council members agreed to better communicate the work of the Council with the international education sector and to seek two-way engagement.

The Council provided advice to Government in relation to key strategic priorities for 2018 and 2019, including the next round of the *Enabling Growth and Innovation* program and Minister Birmingham's potential international travel in 2018. The Council agreed such travel should showcase the diversity of Australian education, training and research.

The Council discussed bilateral and multilateral engagement opportunities for Australia. Mr Peter Varghese AO, Project Lead on the India Economic Strategy, led a discussion on a plan for Australia to strengthen links with India. The India Economic Strategy is likely to be presented to Government in March 2018.

The Council also agreed to work collaboratively with the Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR) to build education, research and training cooperation with Latin America. The first step will be to establish a short-term working group to capture current sectoral engagement with Latin America, identifying barriers to further engagement and scoping opportunities for collaboration.

The Council confirmed it will next meet on 22 June 2018.

Student Services Delivery Working Group update

The Student Services Delivery Working Group, chaired by Mr David Riordan, met for the third time on Thursday 8 February 2018. A key focus was the review of a survey conducted by the Working Group to better understand existing strategies to reduce workplace exploitation and to increase student advocacy where necessary. Members were pleased to see a strong commitment from the sector to a number of strategies to address workplace exploitation. The Working Group will highlight examples of best practice to encourage shared practice and innovation. Working Group members received an update from Dr David Cousins AO, Deputy Chair, Migrant Worker Taskforce, on the role of the sector in ensuring that international students are aware of their legislated rights and responsibilities in the workplace. Finally, the Working Group agreed to a work program to address key priorities including ways to facilitate accurate and consistent pre-departure information for international students, and developing sector strategies to capitalise on work integrated learning and strengthening employability outcomes for international students.

Marketing and Collaboration Working Group update

The Marketing and Collaboration Working Group met for the second time on Thursday, 8 February 2018. Chaired by Professor Kent Anderson, members discussed the reinvigoration of the national brand. The Working Group also advanced the development of a framework to enhance the coordination of destination marketing activity, identifying the circumstances that would benefit from an aligned approach.