



# End of Year Summary of International Student Enrolment Data<sup>1</sup> – Australia – 2017

In 2017, there were 799,371 enrolments generated by 624,001 full-fee paying international students in Australia on a student visa. This represents a 12.7% increase on 2016 and compares with an average annual enrolments growth rate of 4.4% per year over the preceding ten years.

There were 455,680 commencements (new enrolments) in 2017, representing a 10.9% increase on 2016 figures. This compares with the average annual commencements growth rate of 3.8% per year over the preceding ten years.

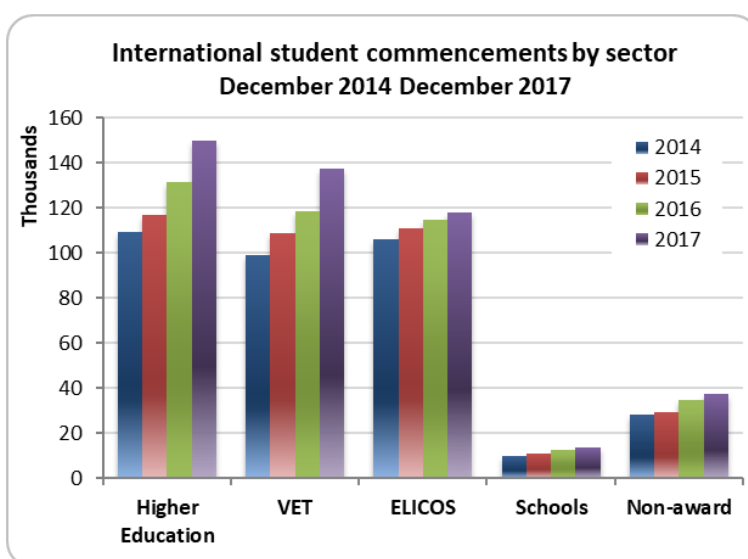
The higher education sector had the largest share of enrolments and commencements (43.8% and 32.9% respectively) in 2017. Enrolments and commencements in the sector increased by 14.7% and 14.3% respectively on 2016 figures. China and India accounted for 38.2% and 15.5% respectively of enrolments by students in higher education. Commencements in postgraduate research increased by 9.2% on 2016 figures, while other postgraduate commencements grew by 22.0%. Bachelor degree commencements grew by 7.8% over the same period.

The VET sector accounted for 27.2% of total enrolments and 30.2% of total commencements in 2017. Enrolments and commencements in the sector increased by 16.7% and 16.1% respectively. India contributed the largest share of enrolments (12.7%) and commencements (11.5%) in the sector. China was the next largest source country for enrolments with 8.5%, followed by the Republic of Korea (8.1%) and Thailand (8.0%).

The English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) sector accounted for 19.4% of total enrolments and 25.9% of total commencements in 2017. Enrolments and commencements grew by 3.4% and 2.9% respectively. China was the largest ELICOS market in the period with 29.3% share of enrolments. Brazil with 11.7% was the second largest nationality for ELICOS enrolments followed by Colombia (8.3%) and Thailand (6.6%).

In 2017, the schools sector accounted for 3.2% of total enrolments and 3.0% of total commencements. Enrolments and commencements in the sector grew by 10.7% and 9.0% respectively. Asia contributed 86.1% of enrolments and 80.9% of commencements. By nationality, China contributed the largest share of enrolments at 52.6% followed by Vietnam (11.4%) and the Republic of Korea (4.7%).

Enrolments and commencements in non-award courses (such as exchange and foundation programs) increased by 13.5% and 6.5% respectively. China (39.2%), the USA (13.0%) and the UK (4.3%) accounted for more enrolments in non-award courses than any other nationality. Commencements from China and the USA increased by 12.3% and 11.3% respectively, and commencements from the UK decreased by 3.7% on 2016 figures.



Sector	Enrolments			Commencements		
	2016	2017	Growth on 2016	2016	2017	Growth on 2016
Higher Education	305,486	350,472	14.7%	131,125	149,940	14.3%
VET	186,533	217,696	16.7%	118,352	137,405	16.1%
ELICOS	150,272	155,448	3.4%	114,447	117,806	2.9%
Schools <sup>2</sup>	23,270	25,762	10.7%	12,371	13,486	9.0%
Non-award	44,044	49,993	13.5%	34,775	37,043	6.5%
<b>Total in Australia</b>	<b>709,605</b>	<b>799,371</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>411,070</b>	<b>455,680</b>	<b>10.9%</b>

The Top 5 nationalities contributed 53.0% of Australia's enrolments in all sectors					Double-digit increases & decreases in markets with over 6,500 enrolments (outside top 5)			
Nationality	2016	2017	Growth on 2016	Share of all nationalities	Nationality	2017	Growth on 2016	Rank
China	195,731	231,191	18.1%	28.9%	Colombia	21,628	26.5%	9
India	77,841	87,615	12.6%	11.0%	Taiwan	18,227	10.8%	11
Brazil	29,347	36,496	24.4%	4.6%	Sri Lanka	10,528	32.0%	17
Nepal	22,684	35,423	56.2%	4.4%	Spain	7,729	19.9%	20
Malaysia	28,295	32,899	16.3%	4.1%	Bangladesh	6,565	11.3%	22
Other nationalities	355,707	375,747	5.6%	47.0%	Saudi Arabia	6,551	-18.8%	23
<b>All nationalities</b>	<b>709,605</b>	<b>799,371</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>				

Data source: Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS).

<sup>1</sup> The Department of Education and Training data on enrolments and commencements (including the data in this update) relate only to international students in Australia on a student visa.

<sup>2</sup> Commencements in schools for the current reference period are not strictly comparable to earlier years due to changes to secondary school level courses at a single large provider prior to 2013.