As at year-to-date (YTD) June 2015, there were 464,787 enrolments by full-fee paying international students in Australia on a student visa. This represents a 10.4% increase on YTD June 2014 and compares with the average YTD June growth rate for enrolments of 5.3% per year over the preceding ten years.

In YTD June 2015, there were 198,347 commencements representing a 7.2% increase over the same period in 2014. This compares with the average YTD June growth rate for commencements of 6.5% per year over the preceding ten years.

The higher education sector had the largest share of enrolments at 47.7% in the YTD June 2015. Enrolments and commencements increased by 8.8% and 5.7% over the same period in 2014. China and India accounted for 35.5% and 11.7% respectively of enrolments by students in higher education. In YTD June 2015, post-graduate research commencements declined by 2.5%, while other post-graduate commencements in higher education grew by 1.0% over the same period in 2014. Bachelor degree level commencements also increased, by 14.1%.

The VET sector accounted for 24.8% of total enrolments and 28.2% of total commencements respectively. Enrolments in the sector increased by 15.0% and commencements grew by 11.9% on YTD June 2014 figures. India had the largest share of total enrolments (17.5%) in YTD June 2015. The Republic of Korea and China had the next largest shares of VET enrolments with 8.3% and 8.0% respectively.

The English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) sector accounted for 18.9% of total enrolments and 27.4% of total commencements in YTD June 2015. Enrolments and commencements increased by 7.2% and 4.0% respectively on the same period in 2014. China accounted for the largest cohort of enrolments and commencements in ELICOS with shares of 24.1% and 21.2% respectively. Brazil was the next largest nationality for ELICOS enrolments with 8.6%, followed by Thailand and Colombia (8.5% and 7.0% respectively).

In YTD June 2015, the schools sector accounted for 3.4% of total enrolments and 3.2% of total commencements respectively. Enrolments for the sector grew by 12.3% and commencements by 18.4% on YTD June 2014 figures. Asia contributed 87.4% of enrolments and 82.2% of commencements. By nationality, China had the largest share of enrolments in schools accounting for 49.5%, followed by Vietnam and the Republic of Korea at 9.3% and 7.3% respectively. Enrolments and commencements in the non-award courses (such as exchange and foundation programs) increased by 14.8% and 5.2% respectively. China (30.4%), USA (13.2%) and Brazil (10.3%) accounted for more enrolments in non-award courses than any other nationality. Commencements from China and the USA increased by 30.0% and 4.5% respectively and commencements from Brazil decreased by 21.5% on 2014 figures.