



MEDIA RELEASE

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International student satisfaction essential for growth

International students are reporting high levels of satisfaction with their Australian tertiary education experience, according to survey results released by the Federal Government today.

Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) CEO Rod Camm said international education was a juggernaut for the Australian economy, with a 10 per cent increase in student numbers and 17 per cent increase in export revenue in 2016 over the previous year.

“It is a hugely important and valuable sector for Australia and particularly pleasing that nine in 10 international tertiary students reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the education they received in Australia,” he said.

“This a very positive reflection on Australia’s education providers.”

Mr Camm said the significant growth in international education provided opportunities for regional Australia.

“We know the majority of our international students choose to study in capital cities such as Melbourne or Sydney. We should look to also leverage growth in this sector into cities such as Adelaide, Perth and some of the larger regional centres in the east,” he said.

“There can be substantial economic and social benefits for communities who embrace international students.”

In order to sustain high quality and sustainable growth, Mr Camm pointed to the need to provide services to enhance international students’ overall experience while studying in Australia.

“The Queensland and Victorian Governments, in particular, have invested in initiatives that provide a range of support services to students including information, advice and referrals on healthcare, budget management, accommodation and employment,” he said.

“This is a valuable complement to the work providers do one-on-one to help international students cope well in their new environments, and I’d encourage all governments to consider what more can be done.”

International students nominated ‘personal safety and security’ as one of the top three reasons they chose to study in Australia.

“We should build on efforts to take a holistic approach to looking after our students. This means ensuring they receive a high quality education but are also well supported in all aspects of their lives while they are our guests,” Mr Camm said.

“In doing so, we will create an invaluable international network of ambassadors for Australia and shore up an industry worth more than \$21.8 billion annually.”

[ENDS]

Rod Camm is available for interview. Please phone the SAS Group on 07 3221 9222, or directly on 0409 484 051.