Responding to student experience challenges
Australia’s international education strategy

Pillar 1: Getting the fundamentals right

**GOAL 1**
Australia will work to create an education system that stands out as the best in the world, with some of our institutions ranked among the very best.

**STRATEGIC ACTIONS**
1.1 Embracing the freedom to achieve excellence
1.2 Investing in world-class research and research infrastructure
1.3 Supporting better information on quality performance
1.4 Providing quality assurance while reducing red tape

Pillar 2: Reaching out to the world

**GOAL 2**
Australia will build on our strong education and research partnerships to broaden engagement in international education.

**GOAL 3**
Australia will foster an international outlook among Australian students and researchers.

**STRATEGIC ACTIONS**
2.1 Strengthening and diversifying institutional partnerships
2.2 Investing in high-quality international research collaborations
2.3 Building confidence through government-to-government engagement
2.4 Broadening engagement to create new opportunities

2.1 Preparing students for global engagement
2.2 Rejuvenating language study

Pillar 3: Staying competitive

**GOAL 4**
Australia will attract more of the world’s students and researchers.

**GOAL 5**
Australia will continue to improve the quality of the educational and living experience for international students.

**GOAL 6**
Australia will embrace new opportunities to grow international education.

**STRATEGIC ACTIONS**
5.1 Maintaining competitive visas and strong consumer protections
5.2 Identifying work experience opportunities
5.3 Improving English language proficiency
5.4 Improving access to public transport and health services
5.5 Improving access to suitable and affordable accommodation
5.6 Increasing community engagement

6.1 Leading good practice in new modes of delivery, including online
6.2 Enhancing opportunities to provide education services overseas
6.3 Understanding the opportunities
After getting the fundamentals right and reaching out to the world (i.e. Goals 1-4), further improving student experience is a key objective.

Only then do we look at Action 6, opportunities to grow international students numbers.
International Student Survey

• A biennial national survey across English language, VET, higher education and secondary schools.

• The Australian Government provides cost-shared funding to support provider participation and it fully-funds the school survey.
International Student Survey

Our objectives:

• To give international students an opportunity to express their views and to influence policy and practice.

• To give administrators and practitioners feedback on their performance in enhancing international students’ experience of studying and living in Australia.
What’s the impact?

We do see education providers, peak bodies and students use the survey data for advocacy and to drive change:

- *Making the Most of Your International Student Barometer Data: A Guide to Good Practice*
- *Australian TAFE Guide to Recruiting and Supporting International Students*
- *Maximising the ELICOS Student Experience.*
For ELICOS students, 21% stayed with a host family.
International school student accommodation - 2014

- Host family: 39%
- Friends or relatives: 32%
- PBSA (boarding school): 17%
- Other: 12%
Opportunities to work while studying

**Higher Education**
- Net important: 76%
  - Very important: 36%
  - Important: 39%
  - Unimportant: 20%
  - Very unimportant: 5%

**VET**
- Net important: 87%
  - Very important: 47%
  - Important: 40%
  - Unimportant: 10%
  - Very unimportant: 3%
Working and Field of Study

- **Higher Education**
  - Work not directly related to field of study: 12%
  - Work directly related to field of study: 24%
- **VET**
  - Work not directly related to field of study: 37%
  - Work directly related to field of study: 50%
- **ELICOS**
  - Work directly related to field of study: 16%

Legend:
- Blue: Working while studying
- Light blue: Work not directly related to field of study
- Dark blue: Work directly related to field of study
Opportunity for full-time work in Australia after study