MEDIA RELEASE

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Sensible and reasoned advice on Australia’s International Education

The release today of advice from the International Education Advisory Council, Australia – Education Globally, represents a significant contribution to policy development for Australia’s international education sector.

TDA welcomes the advice from the Council, chaired by Michael Chaney AO, and in particular the following recommendations:

1. The establishment of a Ministerial Coordinating Council on International Education and the development of a five year work plan
2. Identification of industry champions and support for new links with education providers
3. The consolidation of regulatory requirements for providers serving more than one sector
4. Appropriate levels of support for international students, including equitable transport concessions, access to hospital treatment, and improved accommodation services
5. The extension of streamlined visa processing for low immigration risk providers and a review of the Genuine Temporary Entrant Criteria
6. The provision of incentives for offshore partnerships
7. Increasing the bonus points for an Australian qualification as part of the skilled migration program.

TDA notes the Council’s reluctance to ‘make many significant recommendations on the VET sector, as the sector is currently undergoing significant change and institutional structures are in the process of adjustment. In addition, state and territories have different approaches to the international marketing of VET’.

TDA strongly supports the Council’s advice for further analysis of the VET market. This analysis will ensure the five year work plan recognises and builds on the strengths and quality of TAFE institutes across the country and turns the projected growth for the sector into a reality.

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