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## Media Release

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### RESEARCH ON TAFE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

#### “JUST 13% SEEKING PERMANENT RESIDENCY”

New research\* commissioned by TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) shows just over 10% of the 31,000 international students under training in TAFE Institutes see permanent residency as a goal.

TAFE Directors Australia released details on the survey when calling for major parties to support international education – now Australia’s 3<sup>rd</sup> largest export industry.

The survey commissioned by TDA interviewed over 5,500 international students, across 36 of Australia’s 58 TAFE Institutes.

According to the 2009 survey, the overwhelming majority of international students studied at TAFE in Australia because of reputation for quality courses, and completion of skilled qualifications.

Just 30% viewed as important options on immigration, but just 13% confirmed their major goal was permanent residency.

Martin Riordan, Chief Executive Officer of TDA, said today the research showed why political parties should separate issues of migration, with an obligation of supporting this critical international education market.

“The research makes it clear the vast majority of 630,000 international students like Australia. They return to their home countries pleased with their qualifications and holding a positive view about the quality institutions of education, including TAFE,” Martin Riordan said.

“Pressure is already on 2011 enrolments because of the strengthening AUD\$, aggressive overseas competition, and cut-backs to skilled occupations (SOL list). Unless we’re careful, political leaders may unwittingly threaten a major Australian industry, and income which has supported infrastructure and jobs for lecturers, and ancillary staff and services.”

*For further information*

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\* The survey, *The International Student Barometer for the Australian TAFE sector* was carried out in December 2009 by the i-Graduate International Insight group with funding support from the Commonwealth Government’s Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations