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Media Release

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Communiqué

Strengthening an Australian culture of support for International Students

Accommodation Infrastructure Special Focus

Australia's major public vocational provider, the 58 TAFE Institutes, today welcomed COAG's *International Student Strategy*, and outlined recommendations that Federal, State and Territory agencies respond with a series of measures to strengthen the quality of student experience whilst they are studying in Australia.

The six-point plan includes:

- 1) **NATIONAL REGISTER TO COMMUNICATE QUALITY PROVIDERS** – Governments establish a National Register - designed to distinguish Australian Providers with their range of student services, quality course offerings, and campus experience.
 - 2) **VISA PROCESSING** – Overhaul of the current Immigration Visa processes, to support overseas Australian Missions to be resourced to better identify quality providers for international students.
 - 3) **STUDENT HOUSING FOCUS WITHIN EDUCATION INVESTMENT FUND & INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA** – Extend the \$11B Education Investment Fund, *and* Infrastructure Australia, to drive a radical lift in new student housing, to better guarantee safety for international students
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- 4) **TRAVEL CONCESSIONS** -- Extend travel concessions from domestic to international students across all States and Territories, to improve travel safety for students
- 5) **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** – More productive partnerships with professional development for law enforcement and immigration and education delivery providers, focused on the environment and impact of violence and exposure of domestic living in Australia for students
- 6) **AGENCY & TASKFORCE COMPOSITION** – Numerous taskforces and agencies have been established on international students, yet in some cases education delivery providers have little or no part to their membership.

TAFE Directors Australia will seek to be part of COAG consultation, on the operations roll-out of the **COAG International Student Strategy**.

TAFE Directors Australia is the peak body representing Australia's 58 TAFE Institutes, and dual sector universities of technology.

For further information

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