



COMMUNIQUE COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION MEETING 9 JULY 2026

On 9 July 2026, the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education, and the Hon Julian Hill MP, Assistant Minister for International Education and Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs, met with Expert Members of the Council for International Education (Council) to discuss developments in the international education sector, including recently announced managed growth settings for 2027.

Expert Members were also joined by Professor Barney Glover, Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) Chief Commissioner. Minister Clare signalled that he intends to add the ATEC Chief Commissioner as to the Council as an ex-officio member.

Minister Clare began by outlining recent developments in the international sector including the announcement of the National Planning Level (NPL) for 2027, changes to the student Visa Application Charge and the introduction of the *Universities Accord (Opening the Doors of Opportunity) Bill 2026* to the Australian Parliament. Minister Clare noted the role of overseeing managed growth allocations for higher education providers will formally transition to the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) from 2027, subject to passage of legislation.

Assistant Minister Hill provided Expert Members with further details on the 2027 NPL and associated settings for international education, highlighting that no active international education provider will receive a lower allocation in 2027 than in 2026. Assistant Minister Hill reiterated that diversification, engagement with Southeast Asia and the provision of new student housing continue to be government priorities for 2027, and government will continue to monitor delivery on commitments made by public universities.

Assistant Minister Hill also provided an update on the upcoming International Education and Skills Strategic Framework. Assistant Minister Hill briefly outlined broader trends in the global market and student mobility, which the Strategic Framework will take into consideration, highlighting that Australia maintains a strong market position and that the government is committed to continuing to manage student numbers while ensuring value.

Expert Members noted that maintaining the NPL at 295,000, the same level as 2026 settings, is a positive signal for the sector. Other topics discussed included Evidence Levels, visa refusals, and onshore visa transfers.

The next Council meeting is expected to take place in August 2026.