



COMMUNIQUE

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EXPERT MEMBER MEETING

14 AUGUST 2026

On 14 August 2026, the Hon Julian Hill MP, Assistant Minister for International Education and Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs, met with Council for International Education Expert Members to discuss the global context for international education including emerging trends and considerations for the International Education and Skills Strategic Framework (Strategic Framework).

As Deputy Chair, Assistant Minister Hill opened the meeting by welcoming Expert Members, including Professor Barney Glover AO, who is joining Council as an ex-officio member in his capacity as Chief Commissioner of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission.

Assistant Minister Hill provided an update to Expert Members on recent developments in the international education sector and insights and opportunities arising from his recent trip to Bangladesh, India and Malaysia.

The department provided an update on Strategic Framework development, including how drafting was taking into account Expert Members' feedback to ensure the Strategic Framework will:

- Clearly articulate the Australian international education sector's strengths and successes.
- Maintain a focus on student voice and experience.
- Acknowledge the important role international students play in terms of financial sustainability of the higher education sector.
- Focus on opportunities for the government and the sector to collaborate on key priorities.

Expert Members emphasised that the Strategic Framework should highlight the role of international education in meeting global workforce needs, Australia's strong regulatory system, and the importance of strong student and graduate outcomes. Members also noted the need for further discussion on international VET and skills, research security and international research collaboration. Assistant Minister Hill raised with Expert Members the possibility of arranging further breakout sessions on particular topics, if timing allows.

The department also outlined broader trends in the global market and student mobility, highlighting that Australia maintains a strong market position and that the government is committed to continuing to manage student numbers while ensuring the success of the sector. Expert Members noted that it will be important to reassess student perceptions and the market more broadly as global policy changes continue to shape international education.