



Australian Government  
Department of Education



Ministry of Education  
Government of India

**Australia-India Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation**  
**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**  
**between**  
**the Department of Education of the Government of Australia**  
**and the Ministry of Education of the Government of India**

**August 2022**  
**Sydney, Australia**

1. The Honourable Jason Clare, Minister for Education, The Honourable Brendan O'Connor, Minister for Skills and Training, the Government of Australia and The Honourable Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, held the sixth Australia India Education Council meeting in Sydney, Australia on 22 August 2022.
2. Ministers reaffirmed their **ongoing commitment** to deepen bilateral relations in education, skilling, and research. The Ministers recognized the benefits of education for both countries through continued implementation of the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and noted the role of education cooperation in strengthening people-to-people links.
3. The Ministers highlighted the **critical role that education plays** in maximising outcomes for individuals as well as communities and welcomed the progress made through bilateral cooperation. The Ministers noted effective implementation of initiatives in both countries that benefit institutions, students and researchers and strengthen education linkages.
4. The Ministers welcomed meeting in person, noting it was the first time since the Australia-India Education Council was held in New Delhi in 2019. The Ministers acknowledged the **significant impact of the pandemic** on the global mobility of students over an extended period and agreed to facilitate ease of movement of students in order to mitigate the disruptions caused by the pandemic. They noted that institutions adapted to new ways of both educating and supporting students, particularly through online learning, which can be harnessed to expand access to quality education in the future.
5. Ministers commended progress on the **commitments of the 2019 Australia India Education Council**, recognising the challenging operating environment due to the

pandemic. In particular, the Ministers welcomed growth in research collaboration including through the launch of the **Australian Researcher Cooperation Hub-India (ARCH-India)**, the **Australia-India Research Students Fellowships**, **Research Collaboration Grants**, and through the ongoing **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)** and **Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN)** to facilitate increased research collaboration between both countries. The Ministers noted that these initiatives would connect researchers and foster research partnerships across areas of mutual priority.

6. The Ministers underlined the significant opportunity for increased connection and engagement between policymakers and education institutions to support India's implementation of its **National Education Policy 2020**.
7. The Ministers acknowledged the role institutional partnerships play in strengthening the broader bilateral relationship and encouraged institutions to embrace **new partnership opportunities** arising from India's University Grants Commission regulations on twinning, joint and dual degrees.
8. The Ministers noted the value of internationalisation of education systems and committed to further engagement to remove barriers that might hinder partnerships between institutions. The Ministers agreed to establish a **working group on transnational education** to build shared understanding of the regulatory settings in both countries and promote opportunities for two-way mobility of students and institutions.
9. The Ministers noted the **importance of skills** in building resilient, productive workforces that contribute to economic growth. The Ministers identified an opportunity for greater bilateral cooperation in skills development across schools, vocational and higher education levels. The Ministers agreed to scope opportunity for Australian providers to supplement Indian capacity in skills development and to promote successful examples of Australia-India skills partnerships.
10. The Ministers warmly welcomed the progress made by the Australia-India Education Qualifications Recognition Taskforce. The Ministers stressed the importance of **improving the recognition of Australian and Indian qualifications** to enhance participation in, and access to, higher education in both countries and to promote the educational exchange of our students and institutions. The Ministers reaffirmed their expectation to sign a bilateral mechanism on qualifications recognition by the end of the year.
11. The Ministers underlined the vital importance of Australia and India strengthening partnerships in education and research to address the challenges of the future. The Ministers agreed that our nations jointly face issues across climate, water and food security, health and technology, among other domains, that can be tackled collaboratively to the benefit of our societies and people.

12. Ministers agreed the Australia India Education Council continued to be a highly effective forum to discuss and advance Australia-India bilateral education and research priorities. In reflecting on the importance of skills to the continued growth and development of both nations, the Ministers agreed to expand the remit and rename their joint forum as the Australia India Education and Skills Council. The renamed and expanded forum will allow for engagement on both policy and program issues across education, skills and research. It will be a strong focal point for delivering a collaborative agenda, engaging the Honourable Brendan O'Connor, Minister for Skills and Training, Government of Australia.
13. The Ministers proposed that the inaugural meeting of the Australia India Education and Skills Council be held in India in 2023.