

Joint Communiqué on Strengthening the Education Partnership between the Departments for Education of Australia and England

The UK Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP met with Australia's Ministers with responsibility for education: the Minister for Education, the Hon Jason Clare MP, the Minister for Early Childhood Education, Senator the Hon Jess Walsh, the Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon Andrew Giles MP, and the Assistant Minister for International Education, the Hon Julian Hill MP to discuss the Departments' education partnership, share best practice and identify mutually beneficial areas for future cooperation.

The Ministers agreed to re-establish the Australia-UK Education Dialogue (AUKED) for officials to meet annually for policy exchange and knowledge sharing on areas of mutual benefit to build on our long-standing international education relationship.

The Ministers also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between five UK universities: Cranfield University, Imperial College, King's College London, University of Southampton, University of Strathclyde Glasgow, and three Australian Universities: University of New South Wales, Adelaide University and Curtin University to establish the UK-Australia Advanced Skills Alliance. The Alliance will support the Australian and UK governments to advance defence-related workforce and skills development. The Alliance will establish a Joint UK-Australia Centre for Doctoral Training. The Alliance is open to all Australian and UK universities.

Strategic priorities

The Departments for Education in Australia and England ("the Departments") reaffirm their shared commitment to a future-focused education partnership that drives innovation, economic resilience, and global competitiveness. This collaboration is grounded in common values and mutual trust, recognising that strong education systems are critical to preparing learners for the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly changing world. By leveraging collective expertise, both nations aim to shape policies and practices that deliver inclusive, high-quality education and skills development.

- **Early childhood education and care**

Ministers committed to advancing quality, inclusive, affordable, safe and accessible early childhood education and care systems. Both countries will share strategies to improve school readiness and strengthen integrated family support services – building resilient communities.

- **Innovation in schools**

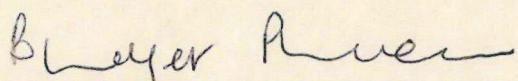
The Departments will hold dialogue on curriculum reform and the safe, effective use of generative AI in classrooms. Collaboration will focus on responsible innovation, safeguarding best practice, and improving student outcomes and attendance.

- **Future workforce and skills**

Ministers agreed to explore flexible and modular tertiary education pathways aligned with future workforce needs. Both Departments will encourage education and skills sectors to collaborate in driving economic resilience and national capability.

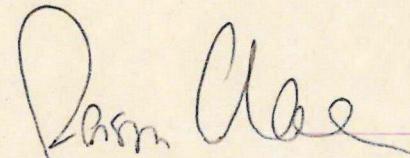
Shared Vision

The Departments reaffirmed their commitment to supporting education systems that deliver high standards, equitable outcomes and are inclusive, innovative, and future-focused. Grounded in shared values and interests, both countries will continue to work together to ensure learners have access to high-quality education and skills development opportunities that prepare them for global challenges regardless of their background.



The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education
Government of the United Kingdom

16 December 2025



The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
Australian Government

16 December 2025