

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED until 12.01am 5 October 2021

EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS AT THE 2021 AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Global leaders in education will attend the [2021 Australian International Education Conference \(AIEC\)](#) in virtual format this year, to discuss how our sector can rebound - with innovation, agility and compassion.

This year's conference, perhaps the most significant AIEC of recent decades, marks the beginning of a new era for our sector. The conference will focus on our global challenges, our COVID-19 responses, digital innovation, and how the sector can recover from 2020-21 and emerge stronger than before.

Co-hosted by IDP Education and International Education Association of Australia (IEAA), the conference provides a unique opportunity for the brightest minds in international education to meet with industry leaders and peers to learn from their collective experiences and share ideas for future success.

The conference will address this year's theme – “New Horizons” – exploring new opportunities and student-first solutions, and a sustainable path forward for sector.

[Speakers](#) at the conference will include:

- The Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education
- Holly Ransom, renowned content curator and MC for the conference
- Solli Raphael, author and founder of Earth Enablers
- Danielle Di-Masi, digital expert in communications, engagement and behaviour
- Dee Madigan, expert in advertising, politics, brands and social media
- Bernard Salt AM, author, columnist and demographer
- Ciara Lancaster, author of “Reimagine Change”
- Dr Greg Barton, expert in Islamic politics and countering extremism

IDP Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Barkla said AIEC 2021 is critically important, not only to industry leaders and executives, but also to the hundreds of thousands of students who place their global education ambitions in the hands of our sector.

“The global international education industry has been recovering strongly following the pandemic, and AIEC is an opportunity for us all to reflect and ensure the lessons learned and innovations we've driven are put to use - beginning with the solutions we create here at the conference.” Mr Barkla said.

“This year's conference will explore “new horizons” through five key themes: global challenges, digital innovation, life and learning, policy and politics and strategic insights. The future of the sector needs our leaders, sector experts and international education professionals to come together and explore these themes. By carefully considering students' evolving needs we can look ahead to a new and bright horizon for global international education,” Mr Barkla said.

AIEC 2021 will formally commence with an Opening Plenary on Tuesday 5 October.

The four-day virtual event program will include a host of plenary sessions, panels, presentations, and more than 80 virtual exhibitors. The program and activities will be hosted from a Virtual Attendee Hub on *Cvent*, where attendees will be able to watch sessions live during the week of the conference and on demand.

The AIEC 2021 program and features include:

- 230+ speakers
- 70+ sessions and events
- Pre-recorded “[Inspire conversation-starter](#)” videos on demand
- Country insights through the “[World in focus](#)” video presentation series on demand
- [Braindate](#) – a peer learning and knowledge-sharing platform with the opportunity to schedule one-on-one meetings with other delegates and exhibitors
- A virtual expo with more than 40 exhibitors
- Engaging [networking events](#)



For more information on the program of events or on speakers attending the conference, visit aiec.idp.com.

Media inquiries:

Isabella Carson - Porter Novelli

icarson@porternovelli.com.au

0488 639 619

About AIEC

The Australian International Education Conference (AIEC) has been connecting people and ideas for more than 30 years.

It is an opportunity each year for the international education sector to meet, learn about major industry trends and network with Australian and international colleagues.

IDP has been the proud owner and host of this event since it was first held in Canberra in 1986.

Since 2006, the conference is jointly presented by IDP and the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA).