



**MEDIA RELEASE  
TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER**

**THE POWER OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SET TO TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT AIEC 2024**

This week, leaders in international education will gather at the Australian International Education Conference (AIEC), amidst one of the industry's biggest periods of change. The event, which is co-hosted by IDP Education and the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA), will be an opportunity for industry leaders to regroup and refocus.

This year's AIEC will be held in Melbourne from Tuesday 22 to Friday 25 October, where industry leaders will explore the theme "*The Human Element*". The event brings together educators, researchers, policymakers and thought leaders to discuss the multifaceted dimensions of human interactions across the international education landscape in this rapidly evolving digital era.

Over the past 12 months, the global international education industry has faced several complex challenges. Global economic uncertainty, coupled with changes to visa and immigration settings in key study destinations, have thrust the global international education industry further into the public domain.

IDP Education Chief Executive Officer, Tennealle O'Shannessy said AIEC 2024 is a critical opportunity for leaders in the industry to collaborate and navigate this period of rapid technological, political and cultural change.

"At its core, international education is about transforming people's lives, but this message has been lost in what has been a turbulent year for our industry. There is more we can do to connect with the Australian public to showcase how international education contributes significantly to workforces and global communities," said Ms O'Shannessy.

"Over the coming years, international students will need human connection and support more than ever as they navigate a rapidly evolving landscape. As leaders in the industry, it is our duty to support students on this life-changing journey and to proudly stand up for them in the public arena."

IEAA Chief Executive Officer, Phil Honeywood, said IEAA is proud to co-host another AIEC alongside IDP as IEAA celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"Australia's international education industry finds itself at a major crossroads. Beyond the imposition of international student caps domestically, this year's conference will explore many pressing topics including international cultural and political shifts, and the rapid proliferation of digital solutions in higher education. AIEC 2024 will prove to be one of the most important conferences in its history," said Mr Honeywood.

"In our anniversary year, IEAA is proud to still champion the future of our treasured yet vulnerable international education industry. For the past 20 years, our industry partners and education providers have worked tirelessly alongside IEAA to ensure the best possible outcomes for our sector. Together, we will ensure AIEC 2024 plays a major role in shaping key decisions that will influence our industry for years to come."

The four-day program at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre will feature talks, panels, presentations, and interactive campfire discussions. Experts will discuss critical themes such as the future of international student markets, artificial intelligence and Australia's quickly evolving international education policy.

For more information about the conference schedule and speakers, visit [aiec.idp.com/program](http://aiec.idp.com/program)

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### **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 has been jointly presented by IDP and the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA).

### **About IDP Education**

IDP is a global leader in international student placement and a proud co-owner of the world's most popular high-stakes English language test (IELTS).

We specialise in combining human expertise with digital technology to help people get accepted into their ideal course, take an English language test or learn English in their schools. Our teams work side-by-side with our customers at every step, from course search through to starting their dream course or career.

We partner with more than 800 quality universities and institutions across Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Our data insights are relied upon by organisations around the world to help ensure policies are informed by the diverse needs, challenges and motivations of students.

Most of all, we are proud of our people, who are trusted by our customers to help them realise their global study or career goals.

IDP is listed on the Australian securities exchange (ASX:IEL) and has 6,500 employees across more than 60 countries. Its websites attract 100 million visits a year.

### **About the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA)**

IEAA is Australia's leading association for international education.

In 2024, we celebrate 20 years of empowering Australia's international education community.

We provide advocacy and member services relevant to professional staff, academics and teachers across all sectors.

We deliver high-quality professional learning to advance members' careers and enhance the quality of Australian international education.

We also drive new research to highlight emerging trends, inform strategy and policy, and enrich the sector's knowledge.

Together with affiliated bodies, corporate partners and government, we work together to promote the benefits of international education to the broader community.