Australian International Education Conference 2019 Highlights

#aiec2019

Missions, not Majors

AEC-20

Hosted by

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2019 Perth Leading the way

Australian International Education Conference 15 - 18 October 2019 Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

The Australian International Education Conference welcomed 1,500 delegates to its 2019 event in Perth, Western Australia. Delegates arrived from 41 countries, representing 530 different organisations, to discuss the industry's leading issues. While the majority of attendees were from Australia, 23 per cent journeyed to Perth from overseas. More than half of the delegates were attending AIEC for the first time.

The opportunity for those who are relatively new to international education to network with and learn from delegates from across the industry is invaluable. Of all attendees, 31 per cent had less than five years of experience in international education, 24 per cent had 5-10 years and 45 per cent had more than 10 years' experience. Knowledge sharing flows both ways; experience across so many levels ensured that insights and ideas combined with in-depth industry knowledge in discussions of how we can lead the way in international education.

A senior European academic attending the conference for the first time remarked that it had been a very interesting conference, rich in data and research. He was impressed with the level of sharing.

As international education navigates increasing disruption, dramatic technological developments, and increasing policy changes and demands, sectoral and industry leadership has never been more important. AIEC 2019 is where the international education industry discussed, debated and defined what leadership means in this new context.

AIEC 2019 facilitated discussions and professional development opportunities throughout the program, accompanied by networking throughout the lively Exhibition Hall and during the everpopular social functions. More than 200 speakers from Australia and overseas shared their research, expertise and insights over a four-day program.

We look forward to building on the success of this year's event and welcoming you to AIEC 2020 on the Gold Coast, Queensland, from 13 to 16 October to discuss '20/20 Vision: Insights for the Decade Ahead' in international education.

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AIEC[®]

Leading the way

IDP Education and the International Education Association of Australia have long set the standard for leadership in the Australian international education industry. AIEC 2019 coincided with the 50th anniversary of IDP and the 15th anniversary of IEAA – milestones to be celebrated, but also to pause, reflect and prepare for the future.

As we navigate increasing disruption, dramatic technological developments, and increasing policy changes and demands, sectoral and industry leadership has never been more important. AIEC 2019 was where the international education industry assembled to deliberate, discuss and debate what leadership means in this context.

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Aiming to better understand what this all means for international education and how we can ensure that our industry continues to be relevant and meaningful, AIEC provided a forum where more than 200 speakers shared their research findings, knowledge and experience over a four-day program.

Discussions ranged from climate change, the future of Australia's nation brand, the involvement of parents in the university selection process to how to embrace marketing via social media influencers.



Latin America and Nepal as source markets were discussed, while the ever-popular Times Higher Education World University Rankings drew a large crowd. Senior government representatives along with subject matter experts across all areas of international education demonstrated examples of best practice, identifying areas for innovation and improvement for the sector to lead the way into the future.

The conference theme, 'Leading the way', provided many angles to approach contemporary discussions ininternational education.

Innovation in education was popular as ever, with insight into new ways of thinking with data, insights into the student/parent dynamic when choosing a course and the art of social influencing. One panel asked all delegates to consider their impact on the environment, discuss ways to lessen their individual carbon footprint and that of their organisations. Lightning presentations gave an opportunity for open discussions across a diverse range of topics, while two 'In focus' sessions highlighted the trends from Latin American and Nepalese perspectives.

'Leading the Way as a Nation' included outlines from Austrade on plans for Australia's nation brand from an international education perspective, as well as a deep-dive into the National Strategy for International Education.

The challenge is greater than thought leadership - it also involves setting the example in actions as leaders in our institutions, departments, faculties and student groups. We hope those who attended AIEC 2019 have returned home to bring insight and ideas to their colleagues.

We are fortunate to be part of an industry that nurtures our global leaders of tomorrow. AIEC 2019 provided the platform to discuss who we see as our leaders and what we can draw from the examples on how best to lead the way.







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No one here will doubt that the world is smarter, more cohesive and more resilient due to the ideas and experiences that our students share with our wider communities.

Andrew Barkla CEO, IDP Education

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We celebrate our organisation's contribution to the development and advancement of international education, and the evolution of the industry into what it is today.

Melissa Banks, President, International Education Association of Australia (IEAA)

"

Keynote speakers

THE HON MARK MCGOWAN MLA Premier of Western Australia

The Premier of Western Australia, Mark McGowan, welcomed us to 'Australia's friendliest city', acknowledging it was a timely honour for Perth to host the premiere international education conference as the sector enters a new era of prominence in Western Australia.

With the government launching its international education strategy last year in collaboration with Study Perth, the potential of Perth to become a destination of choice for international students has become paramount, Mr McGowan said. Since coming to government two-anda-half years ago, Mr McGowan has worked tirelessly to increase the profile of the region, leading international delegations, as well as advocating for government investment to position Perth as a world-class international education city.

He acknowledged that although Perth was connected, affordable and offered cutting edge institutions and facilities, there are still challenges to ensuring it remained a competitive destination. To help meet these challenges, he announced several important policy changes including a realignment of the graduate migration visa scheme to provide students greater access to a wider range of jobs. The scheme will also be expanded to include vocational education and training.

In closing, Mr McGowan reiterated the need to continue working closely with government to ensure a resolution to its regional status for visa purposes. As much as international education plays a key role in the state's economy and education system, it is also crucial in creating understanding between people and cultures, ensuring Perth remains a vibrant, dynamic and global city.



FRED SWANIKER Co-Founder, African Leadership Academy and African Leadership Network

Fred Swaniker, founder of the African Leadership University (ALU), opened the AIEC conference by asking: "What can we do to develop leadership skills in the next generation?"

Africa is facing a host of complex challenges. As we enter the fourth industrial revolution, technology and the pace of change are becoming exponentially faster, while the scale of challenges reaches new heights of complexity. As new jobs come into existence and old career pathways become obsolete, how can we instil in the next generation the leadership qualities required to adapt to these unknown elements, as well as drive crucial change? Mr Swaniker believes he has the answer.

Through the African Leadership University, Mr Swaniker is implementing a new educational paradigm that will equip future students with the knowledge and skills they need to adapt to challenges. He shared with the audience the key principles underpinning this philosophy, namely we need to prepare the next generation to be innovative, entrepreneurial, and to be able to turn ideas into actionable reality. Teaching, according to Mr Swaniker, needs to go beyond academic instruction and instead prepare students for life, linking knowledge and skills to tangible impacts on communities.

Mr Swaniker's mantra cuts through in its simplicity: 'Missions not majors'. At ALU, this philosophy is a call for students to focus on the impact they want to have on the world, rather than focusing on a major within a degree. Students are then placed in the driver's seat to build their own learning and curriculum, enabling them to be self-directed in their learning, ideate and apply entrepreneurial thinking, designing cross-disciplinary solutions to achieve their missions. Drawing examples from outstanding ALU alumni, Mr Swaniker demonstrated how this education philosophy would enable future leaders to hone their critical and generative thinking skills, develop a deep understanding of the world around them, and leave university with an adaptive mindset that will enable them to be the change makers Africa, and the world, needs.

By offering his students a menu of the grand challenges facing Africa, and the great opportunities, ALU is producing a generation of lifelong learners and problem solvers.

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Good leadership is not a luxury. Good leadership is a necessity."



Fred Swaniker

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THE HONOURABLE KIM BEAZLEY AC Governor of Western Australia

The Governor of Western Australia, Kim Beazley, opened his address with an acknowledgement of the conference theme and immediately drew the audience to the question of what leadership means in a shifting and complex global environment.

Political leadership, Mr Beazley suggested, was distinct from most other spheres due to its enormity and scale of impact. In order to provide strong leadership and successfully drive an agenda you need a formidable organisation that is capable of engaging the community. Political leaders must, in turn, have a deep understanding of their nation, its history, flaws and geopolitical situation.

An example of such leadership, Mr Beazley offered, was former Prime Minister of Australia Bob Hawke. He cast our minds back to Mr Hawke's leadership style, one characterised by both vision and delivery - "a man of commonplace opinions, and uncommon administrative abilities". A man of the people.

Throughout his address, Mr Beazley brought us back to the key theme of community engagement. He proposed that if we are to offer international students a truly culturally immersive and engaging experience, we need to involve our wider communities as much as possible.

Mr Beazley went on to acknowledge the increasing contribution of international education to the WA economy. In 2017, the sector generated \$1.9 billion in export income for the state and created approximately 10,000 full-time jobs to service a cohort of more than 50,000 students, all of which enhanced our relationship with our neighbours and the globe – an enduring example of soft-power diplomacy.

In closing, the Governor acknowledged the different journeys of both IDP and IEAA as they reached their milestone years of 50 and 15 respectively. He acknowledged, too, their shared purpose, which is the enrichment of our communities and our global connections through the power of education.

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Our soft power is critical. What you do in education here, what you do in research here, what you do in collaboration elsewhere, in our outreach to the region around us, and further afield, is critical.

WILLIAM

Author, communication specialist, international student ambassador and LPDP awardee, Indonesia

From a young age, William recognised the pivotal role of education in shaping people's lives. Recounting his journey as a young student in Indonesia, William was compelled to write his first book on his experiences within the Indonesian education system. Now a successful author of three books, William has established himself as a global ambassador for education.

Reflecting on his past, he shared with the audience some of the challenges and lessons he had learnt throughout his career and the role his family played in supporting him and shaping his outlook. In particular, his father taught him resilience and the need to always strive to be better.

William reminded us that all international students were ambassadors for their families, their country and for the educational institution in which they studied. Despite rubbing shoulders with senior ministers and industry leaders throughout his career, William said he never lost sight of his sense of humility and gratitude for the breadth of his experiences and the opportunities an international education could afford students.

As he drafts his latest book on the experiences of international students in Perth, William is reflecting on the quality of education in Australia and how it has shaped him to become not just an Indonesian in Australia, but an Indonesian with an Australian and global perspective.

Today should be better than yesterday, and tomorrow must be better than today.

"



Keep educating students internationally – it is the key to good connections between nations.

Hon Julie Bishop

THE HON JULIE BISHOP Former Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Julie Bishop's passion for education and leadership was evident as she took us through her political career, which spanned more than 20 years representing Australia and its interests on the world stage.

Ms Bishop revealed to the audience some of the key legacies of her time in government including, as Education Minister, a push towards national standards and investing in the infrastructure of Australian universities. She also commissioned research on the attitudes of Australian students on international education, recognising both the structural and attitudinal barriers to international student mobility. Her determination to ensure Asian literacy and to build global citizenship as a rite of passage was an interest she held across her entire political career. The ensuing policy development evolved into the New Columbo Plan, crossing the divide between international education and foreign policy. The plan was transformative, giving students the opportunity to undertake study, internships and practicums in an overseas setting, with more than 40,000 undergraduates working in the Indo-Pacific region.

Ms Bishop closed by commending the commitment of Australia's international education sector to steering the course for a bright future, underpinning relations between nations, and preparing future global leaders. In conclusion she emphasised how government can use international education for diplomatic purposes, with outcomes enduring far beyond election cycles.

THE HON SUE ELLERY MLC Leader in the Legislative Council and Minister for Education and Training

Thanking IDP Education and IEAA for bringing the conference to Perth, Minister Sue Ellery reiterated the Premier's comments on increasing the profile of Western Australia as a world-class international education destination. Several important policy changes were announced following intensive consultation with the industry, including a realignment of the graduate migration visa scheme to enable students to have greater access to a wider range of jobs.



Program highlights

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION'S RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Challenging the crowd with a question – how many of you have offset your travel to AIEC? – this panel sought to turn a spotlight on how the international education sector can act to reduce the carbon footprint associated with global mobility and the need to factor climate action into future operating models. The panel shared data on student attitudes to sustainability and how the new THE Impact Ranking can shape student decision-making around institutions' green credentials.

A NEW NATION BRAND FOR AUSTRALIA

Just what is a nation brand and what does it mean for international education in Australia? More than a single logo, slogan or marketing initiative, nation branding involves creating a framework and consistent narrative to market our credentials to the world. Australia's new nation brand guides marketing communication, provides visual cues and delivers marketing activities for Australia. For international education, the panel outlined the developing Australian nation brand, how it defines our aesthetic as a nation and how this can be leveraged to attract students to study in Australia.





2020 WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Covering the newly released 2020 World University Rankings and the methodology that underpins the results, this presentation provided a deep-dive into the data for Asia-Pacific to reveal trends and challenges within the region. Delegates learnt how those universities at the top of the rankings were using their WUR result to differentiate from each other, further bolstering their marketing messages to prospective and current students.

NEW RESEARCH SHOWS STUDYING OVERSEAS IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

The 2019 IDP Student Buyer Behaviour study included parents in the research and reported findings that parents were more likely to play an influential role in *where* a student studies, whereas most students are the primary decision maker for *what* they study. The research also uncovered differing concerns for parents and students, with safety being front-of-mind for parents, while job prospects after graduation, tuition fees and living costs were the major concerns for students.

MAXIMISING RETENTION WITH PACKAGED PATHWAY STUDENTS

Traditional pathway programs allow international students to improve their English proficiency to meet entry requirements and transition into their desired education programs. However, students have multiple influencers throughout their pathway that can lead them down the 'course-hopping' rabbit hole. How can the different stakeholders work together through the student's journey to minimise attrition? Delegates heard how Edith Cowan College and University had implemented easily replicable strategies to ensure maximum results, boasting a significantly increased packaged student retention rate.

IN FOCUS – LATIN AMERICA

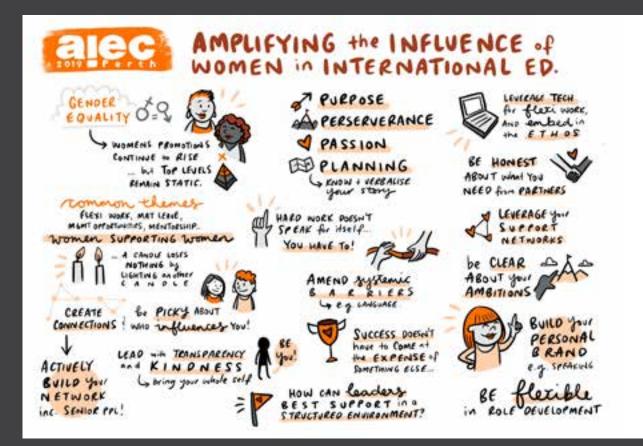
Latin America is the fastest growing region for Australian international student enrolments as Australia seeks to diversify its international education source markets. The panel discussed a sector-driven report produced by the Latin America Working Group and examined how different stakeholder groups were responding to the report's recommendations, with input by education counsellors from Brasilia and Mexico City. With particular focus on the general lack of knowledge about Latin America within the sector, the panel outlined ways to engage with this growing source market.





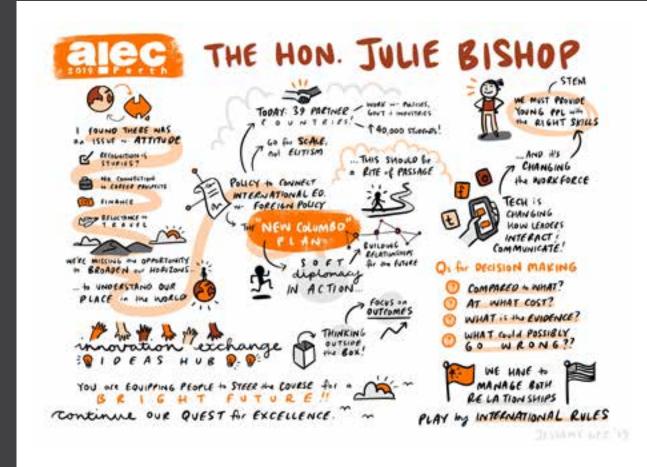


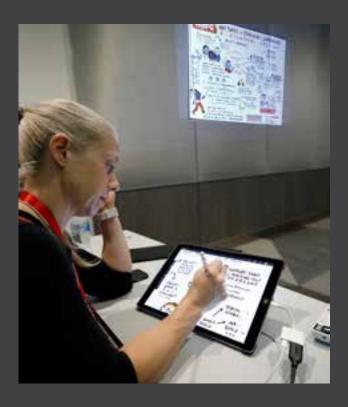




RELCOME! HON. MARK MC GOWAN





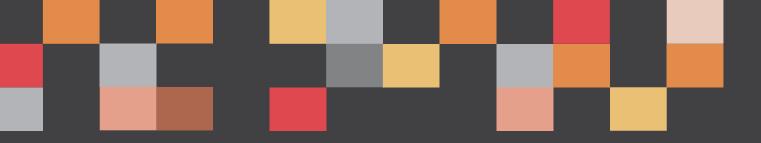


GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS

Our favourite graphic illustrator Jessamy sketched several of the sessions in real time, capturing the central concepts and discussion points. Attendees were delighted to see principal ideas appear across the whiteboard, offering a fun way to remember the key messages.



All illustrations are available for download at www.aiec.idp.com



DEALING WITH MARKET ISSUES IN CHINA, INDIA AND ASEAN

Understanding your market's shifting dynamics is vital for growing and maintaining share. This panel featured key Austrade commissioners offering input on the challenges in-country and the commercial opportunities ready for Australian providers to leverage. With significant input from the audience, this lively discussion provided a clear and specific understanding of how best to approach China, India and the ASEAN region.

DATA FOR CHANGE

Using case studies from the UK and Ireland, this session highlighted the emerging use of real-time data for a range of purposes in higher education planning and lobbying. Highlighting trends in international demand and increased richness of data analysis has led to stronger lobbying efforts with government, affecting policy on student decision-making and tracking opportunities for student growth. The presentation showed how Brexit and other global policies had affected student demand and gave evidence of the real-time impact.





STRENGTHENING INDUSTRY TIES THROUGH IEAA NETWORK CONVERSATIONS



IEAA Network conversations continue to be popular. These sessions, coordinated by the IEAA Network leadership team, brought together like-minded colleagues to exchange ideas and insights on topics directly relevant to their everyday roles and enabled the strengthening of relationships and increased knowledge sharing.

Conversations were held by the following networks:

- Admissions and Compliance Network
- Learning Abroad Network
- Marketing and Recruitment Network
- Pathways Network
- Scholarships and Fellowships Network
- Student Life Network
- Teaching and Learning Network
- Transnational Education Network
- Young Professionals Network

PRE-CONFERENCE LEARNINGS: Workshops, Masterclasses and a Summit

Tuesday's pre-conference sessions included three masterclasses and two workshops. These highenergy learning platforms provided participants with increased understanding, case studies and practical scenarios from a variety of specialised fields. The two full-day masterclasses gave attendees more in-depth knowledge of key interest areas, facilitating greater interaction, hands-on participation and knowledge sharing. In an age of fake news and populism, the IEAA Research Summit sought to separate fact from furphy to focus on evidence for action.









Exhibition highlights

A record 65 exhibitors were available throughout the exhibition area, providing delegates with insights into a huge variety of offerings across the international education value chain. The Exhibition Hall was an area where connections were made, new products were discovered, and acquaintances were renewed.









Exhibition highlights



THE STUDY IN AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT SHOWCASE

For the first time at AIEC, the Australian Government and state and territory agencies united under the 'Study in Australia -Government Showcase' banner.

Bringing together the full scale of Australia's international education offerings, the showcase dominated the Exhibition Hall, demonstrating our nation's strength in the sector.







Networking and social functions

WELCOME RECEPTION Sponsored by Curtin University

The excitement was palpable when the Exhibition Hall opened its doors for the first official event. For every delegate it was an opportunity to reconnect with acquaintances and build new networks, all while enjoying some of Western Australia's finest food and beverages.





FIRST-TIMERS' ORIENTATION AND NETWORKING Sponsored by Flywire

For delegates attending AIEC for the first time, this was an invaluable kick-off to the conference.

First-timers to AIEC received a warm welcome (and some tips on making the most out of a jam-packed program) from IDP's Brian Smith as an organising committee member and Phil Honeywood on behalf of IEAA. Following these words of advice from seasoned AIECgoers, everyone got a chance to socialise and meet other attendees through a round of People Bingo.









Networking and social functions

HAPPY HOUR Sponsored by IELTS

After a captivating opening plenary and a full first day of sessions, Happy Hour was a welcome conclusion to a busy day. The spectacular Print Hall was the perfect venue to unwind and catch-up with colleagues and old and new friends. Some braved the chilly spring weather on the rooftop for spectacular views of the CBD.









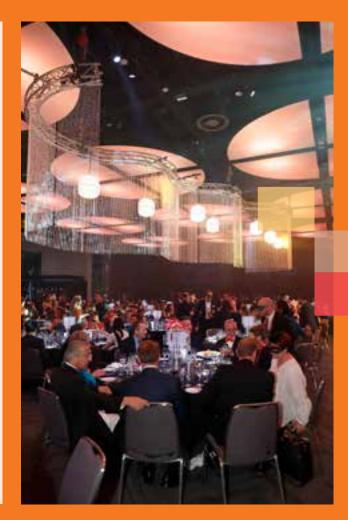


CONFERENCE DINNER: GOLDEN MASQUERADE BALL Sponsored by IDP Education

The pinnacle of all social events, the glamorous Golden Masquerade Ball was a huge success. As a celebration to mark IDP's 50th anniversary, 1,200 delegates dressed in their finest and donned a mask for a special evening.

Beginning in the Summer Garden for canapes and drinks, guests were 'papped' in front of the media wall and enjoyed socialising under the stars. Then moving to the BelleVue Ballroom, guests walked the red carpet to find a magnificently decorated ballroom, complete with dazzling aerial acrobatics and crystal chandeliers.

After a dinner showcasing Western Australia's finest food and drink, our masked delegates hit the dance floor to the sounds of Proof The Band. Masked in mystery and draped in decadence, this year's ball was nothing short of magical.













2019 IEAA Excellence Awards

IEAA's Excellence Awards recognise the outstanding contributions by individuals and teams to international education in Australia. They also provide a benchmark of excellence and best practice for the entire sector. The quality of the applicants is a tribute to the vibrant international education sector in Australia. IEAA recognised the 'cream of the crop' of Australia's international education sector at the opening plenary.

WE CONGRATULATE



DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

John Hudzik Michigan State University



TONY ADAMS RISING STAR

Julian O'Shea Unbound



BEST PRACTICE IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

James Martin Insider Guides



Who aking re

INNOVATION IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Craig Cowdrey, Christopher Marr, Peter Burnheim Sonder

OUTSTANDING POSTGRADUATE THESIS

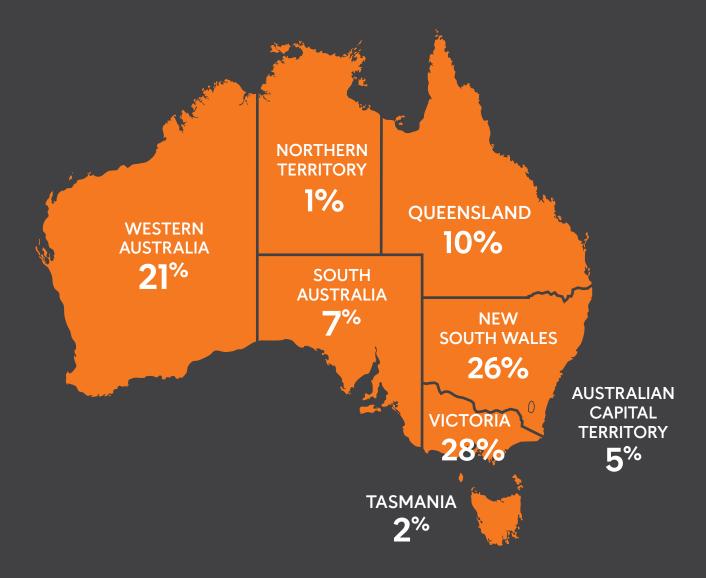
Dr Alexander Stütz University of Queensland

TRACY McCABE FELLOWSHIP

Paula Soon RMIT University

29

AUSTRALIAN ATTENDEES BY STATE/TERRITORY



ATTENDEES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

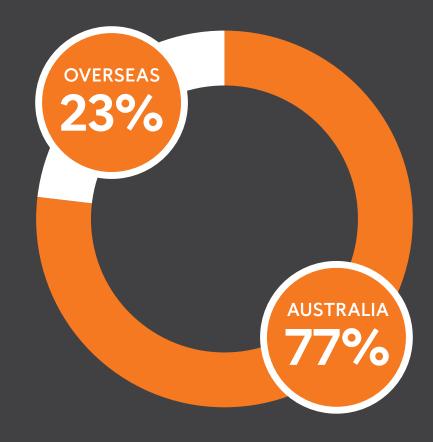
TOP 10 COUNTRIES

- 01 AUSTRALIA
- 02 INDIA
- 03 NEPAL
- 04 NEW ZEALAND
- 05 UNITED KINGDOM
- 06 MALAYSIA
- 07 UNITED STATES
- 08 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
- 09 CHINA
- 10 THAILAND

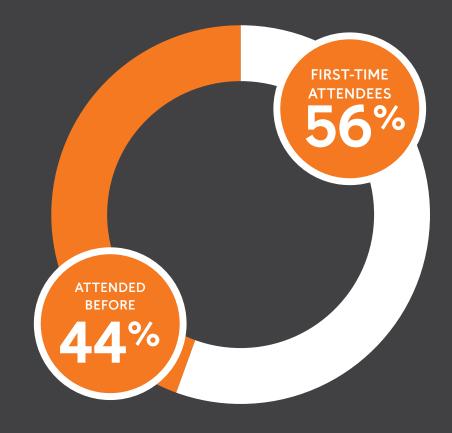




AUSTRALIAN VS. OVERSEAS ATTENDEES

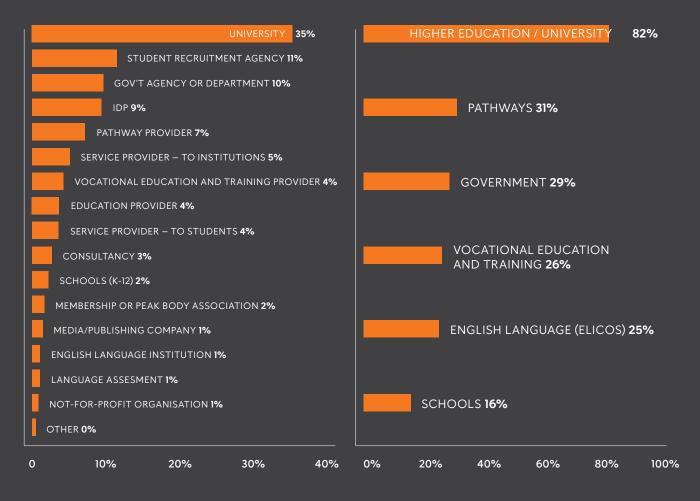


FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES

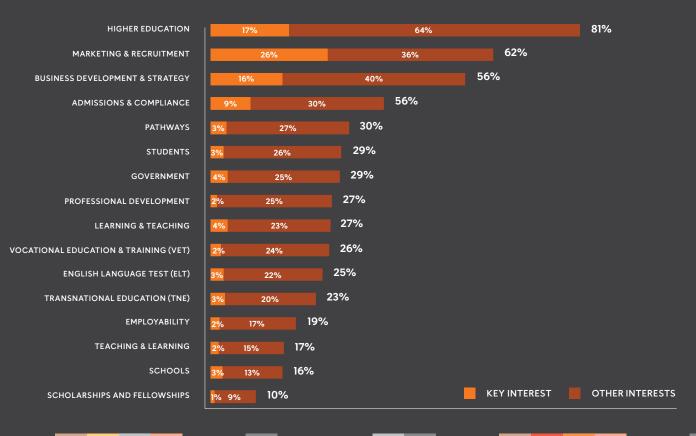


ATTENDEES BY ORGANISATION

ATTENDEES BY SECTOR INTEREST



ATTENDEES BY INTEREST AREAS



32

AIEC in the media

AIEC 2019 attracted more than 10 journalists from seven Australian and international media outlets. Interviews with conference speakers and attendees helped generate more than 46 pieces of coverage across print, online and e-news. Articles were also shared via media outlets' social channels, reaching an estimated total combined audience of 21.8 million.

#AIEC2019

The official AIEC hashtag was as popular as ever during the conference with 1,282 total tweets, reaching just over 1.2 million individual users. All tweets were viewed more than 7.4 million times.



Thank you

STEERING COMMITTEE

James Bennett

Head of Business Delivery and Evolution, **Client Relations Team, IDP Education**

Janelle Chapman Director, TAFE Queensland International, and Vice-president, IEAA

Callum Cowell Director, Global Engagement Office Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Partnerships) and IEAA Board member

Hon. Phil Honeywood Chief Executive Office, IEAA

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chair Louise Goold

Danielle Hartridge Natasha Monks Mariana Lane Callum Cowell

Track chairs

Marlena Mende Ozlem Adakale Josephine Williams Linda Rust Caryn Nery Emily O'Callaghan Andrew Foley

Elizabeth Webber

General Manager Asia Pacific, IDP Connect

Dean International, College of Arts, Business,

Law and Social Sciences, Murdoch University

Stakeholder Engagement Manager, IDP Education

Events and Partnerships Manager, IDP Education

Debra Langton Janelle Chapman Michael Bracher

MARKETING AND LOGISTICS

Several people played a key role in the successful delivery of the program, marketing and promotion, logistics and other aspects of the conference planning. We gratefully acknowledge the work of these people.

Kine Asgautsen

Vik Singh

Kelly Smith

Brian Smith

Josephine Williams

Emily O'Callaghan Ozlem Adakale Peter Muntz Sally Gatenby

Kim Stevenson Gracie Daniel Ariane Dwyer Jordana Lennox Stephanie Bethencourt-Joyce Jac Tang Kavitha Doraimanickam

IDP CONFERENCE CREW

Up before anyone else, and last to bed - the IDP Conference crew keep the conference moving smoothly.

CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

thinkbusinessevents passionate about conferences





Join us at #aiec2020

Zidp 50

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