AIEC 2016, Melbourne

Integrating international education into regional development strategy

Panel

Professor Jan Thomas
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University of Southern Queensland
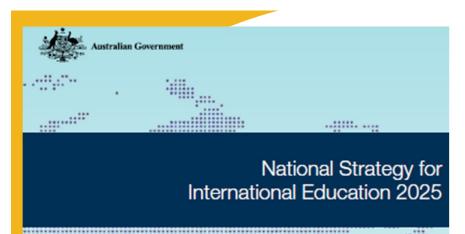
Value of international education to Australia (2014-15)

- **Contributes:**
  - **Export revenue of $19.7 billion**
  - **$17.1 billion to Australia's GDP**
- **Australia's third largest export**
- **Supports over 130,700 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees**
  - accounting for 1.3% of Australia's total employment
- **Current stock of international students will contribute 130,000 skilled migrants to our workforce after they graduate**
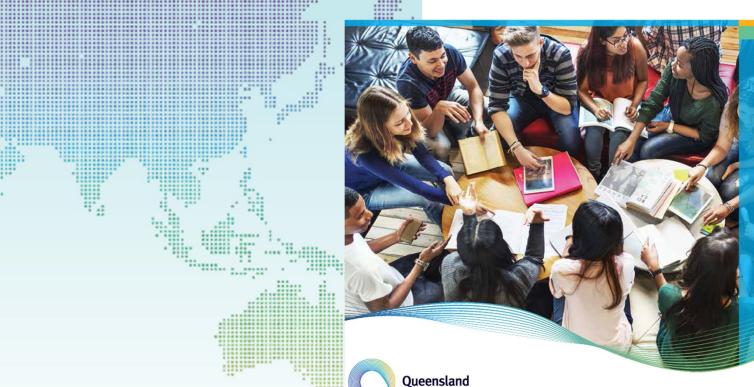
Deloitte Access Economics

International education presence in regional Australia

Benefits to regions	Benefits to students
• *Growing and diversifying regional economies* • *Increase in cultural understanding / support for multiculturalism and globalisation* • *Improved cultural literacy and competency* • *Social and cultural variety and linkages* • *Establishment of international connects – entrepreneurship, knowledge exchange, research, international collaboration, investment links*	• *Low living cost* • *High accommodation availabilities* • *Safe and friendly environment* • *Access to work opportunities* • *Closer interaction with local communities* • *Access to Australia's natural environment* • *Diverse study offerings and distinct research areas such as agriculture, marine science and tropical medicine* • *Learning advantages; for example, smaller class sizes*

National Strategy for
International Education 2025

Draft
International
Education
and Training
Strategy to
Advance
Queensland
2016-2026

UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN
QUEENSLAND

Queensland
AUSTRALIA
endless opportunities

TIQ Trade &
Investment
Queensland
AUSTRALIA

Australian Government

Improving international education presence in regional Australia

NATIONAL:

"… promoting internationally the excellence and the advantages of education, training and research in regional Australia."

QLD:

1. Stronger engagement

2. Support and inclusion in state-wide initiatives

3. Increase access and affordability of schools for international students dependants

4. Appropriate pathways from schools and VET

Improving international education presence in regional Australia (cont'd)

❑ **Political lobbying – from national to local levels**

❑ **USQ Global Engagement Plan 2016–2020**

- *Organise events on a consistent and frequent base that help in bringing international students and locals into engaging dialogues*

- *Liaise with all divisions across USQ to ensure that there is a common understanding for promoting USQ as a regional university*

- *Dynamic engagement with local government and community bodies*

- *Actively advocate for establishing an organisation that tie together USQ with local education providers (initiation of 'Study Toowoomba')*

- *Take active part in the competition for national and state funding for international Education*

Part of a larger political agenda for regional Australia

❑ **Battling myths that regional Australia is failing, lacks diversity and under-contributes**

▪ $10 billion growth for Toowoomba and Surat Basin by 2030

❑ **Battling myths that burgeoning cities and shrinking regions are inevitable**

▪ $53b congestion

▪ Incorporating small cities into the Cities Agenda

▪ Building supertowns – "not a "tree change" or a "sea change" but a "city change"

❑ **Coalition Policy for Jobs and Growth in Regional Australia**

❑ **Coalition education policy to benefit regional students**

Part of a larger political agenda for regional Australia (cont'd)

❑ ***Smarter Regions, Smarter Australia*** **(RUN)**

The RUN Policy Plan:

- Regional education component:

  A holistic approach to funding and policy should be adopted across Government portfolios with respect to the support for regional students, regional communities and regional universities.

- Regional development component:

  RUN seeks the development of a comprehensive new strategy that recognises the role played by regional universities in facilitating and strengthening regional development.

Thank you