

29th October 2012

Media Release

CISA Delighted With International Education Given Priority by Prime Minister

Council of International Students of Australia (CISA) today applauds the Prime Minister's release of the '*Australia in the Asian Century White Paper*'. In the report, Julia Gillard opens Australia's doors to the world, welcoming Asia's growing potentials that has profound ramification to Australia's current and future growth, giving international students a window of opportunity to explore their potentials.

To optimise Australia's future prospect in international education, collaborative efforts from all government, private sectors as well as the community needs to be foster. As published in the White Paper, 80% out of the 550,000 international students in Australia are from the Asia region.

Income from international students alone in 2011 was at a staggering \$15 billion, making it Australia 4th largest export. For this sole reason, Australia as a nation needs to broaden their understanding and perspective on the culture that Asia has to offer.

'Constructive steps need to be undertaken to ensure students welfare and safety are taken care off. Internship crisis, affordable accommodations and safety are negatively impacting on international students experiences,' said Heather Richards, CISA welfare officer.

For many years, international students' fees have propped up domestic student education. Australian community have benefitted from international students. With inequality such as access to student transport concessions and healthcare, international students are left to feel like 'cash cows'. For an education system which benefits both domestic and international students, a sustainable funding model needs to be formed and new revenues should be looked upon rather than dependence on international students tuition fees alone.

'In implementing the measures outlined in the White Paper, the steps would ensure better experience for international students studying in Australia as well as provides benefits for the wider Australian community as it's already generating more than 10,000 jobs locally,' said Aleem Nizari, CISA president.

The International Education Advisory Council led by Michael Chaney AO which is comprise of students as well will be advising the government about the opportunities and challenges faced by Australia's international education sector, giving them the students point of view on how improvement can be implement rationally.

'This is our golden opportunity to advocate for the improvement of international education which will benefit all involved. We are already in close contact with **Mr Chaney AO the chair of** International Education Advisory Council,' said Mr Nizari.

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