



University of
South Australia

Good Practice in the Provision of Education to International Students in Australia: Government Interventions in Ensuring Quality and Fairness

Presented by
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Outline

- The growth of international education in Australia
- The Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) legislation
- Implementing the legislative requirements
- The role of government in university management



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The Growth of International Education in Australia

- Australia
- South Australia
- UniSA



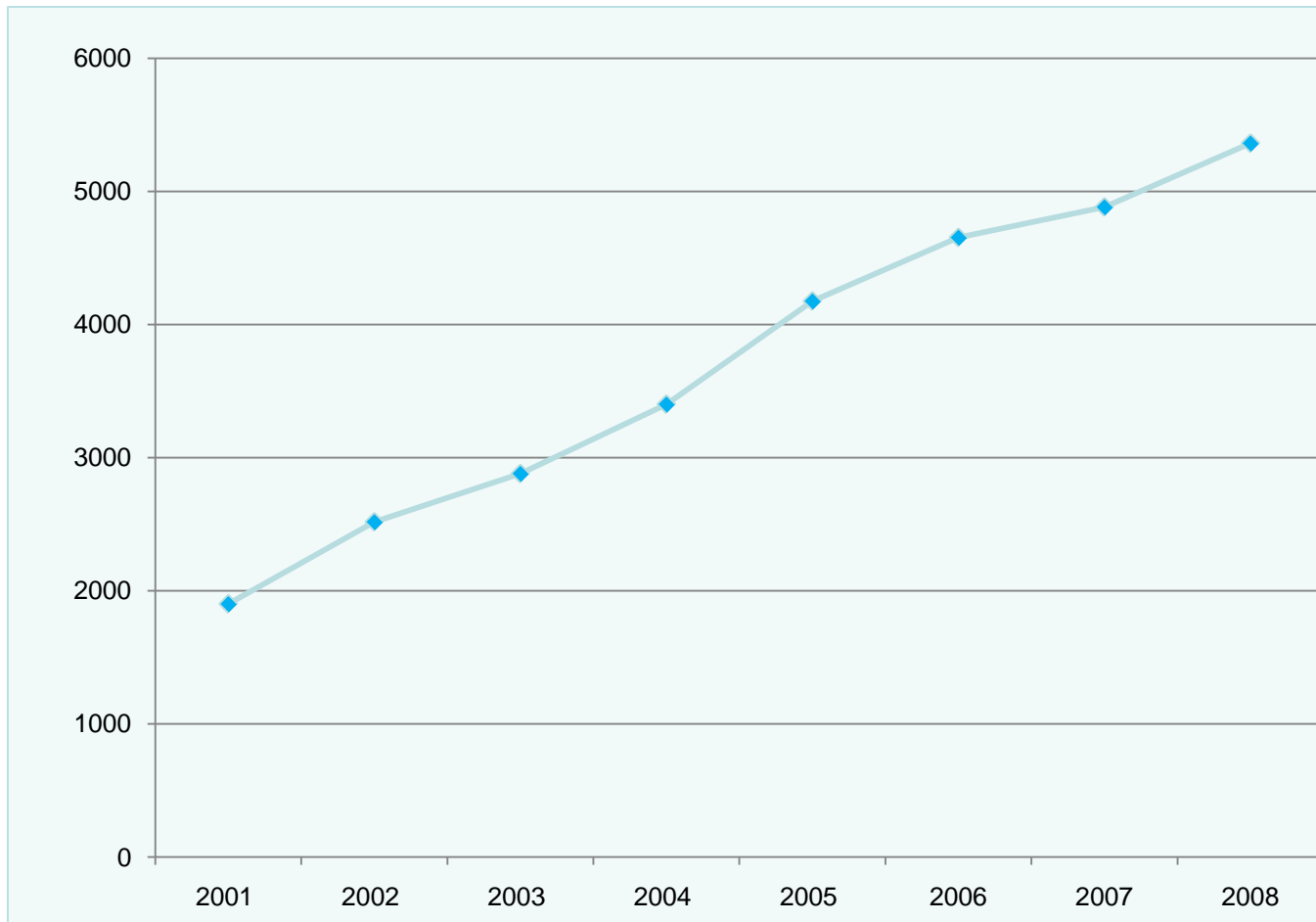
Top 3 source countries for South Australia

No.	Country	2007	2008	Growth 2007-08
1	China	8,140	9,519	16.9%
2	India	2,662	4,725	77.5%
3	Malaysia	2,108	2,250	8.0%

(Source: Education Adelaide, March 2009)



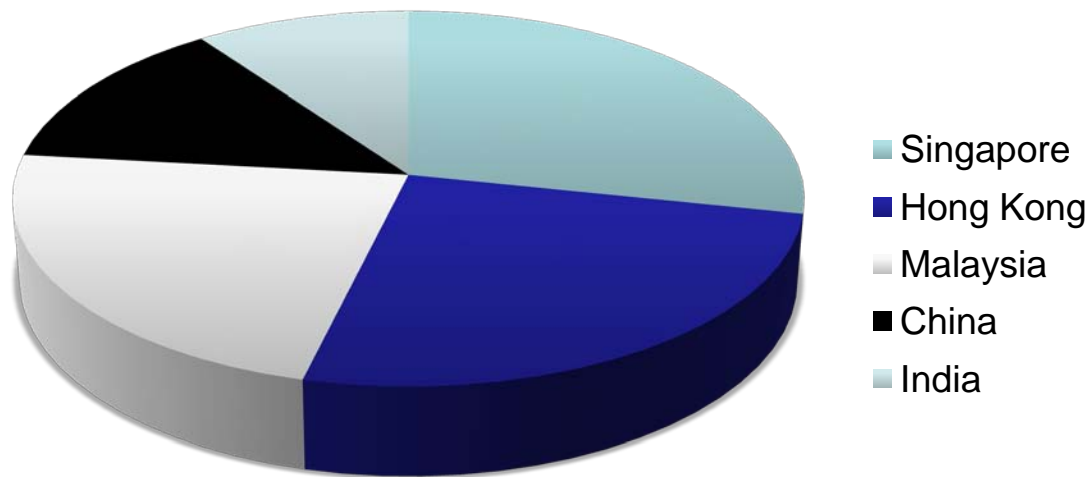
UniSA onshore international student enrolment 2001 - 2008





UniSA onshore international student profile

Top 5 source countries 2008





The Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Legislation

Objectives

1. Establish and safeguard Australia's reputation
2. Protect the interests of international students
3. Maintain the integrity of the student visa programme
4. Support the effective administration of the legislation



Implementing the ESOS requirements at UniSA

1. Safeguarding Australia's reputation

- Standard 1: Marketing information and practices
- Standard 2: Student engagement before enrolment
- Standard 3: Formalisation of enrolment
- Standard 4: Education agents



Implementing the ESOS Requirements at UniSA

2. Protecting the interests of international students

Standard 5: Younger students

Standard 6: Student support services

Standard 7: Transfer between registered providers

Standard 8: Complaints and appeals



Implementing the ESOS Requirements at UniSA

3. Maintaining the integrity of the student visa programme

Standard 9: Completion within the expected duration of study

Standard 10: Monitoring student progress

Standard 11: Monitoring attendance

Standard 12: Recognising credit

Standard 13: Deferring, suspending or cancelling the student's enrolment



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The Role of Government in University Management

- The current policy environment
- The impact on universities
 - Erosion of institutional autonomy
 - Financial and market constraints
 - Cost of implementation



Conclusion

- The Rudd Labor government
- a new policy environment or more of the same?
- Review of Higher Education and other initiatives
(announced 13 March 2008)



Bradley to lead major review of universities

By Julie Hare

The head of the major review of higher education announced last week, Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley is confident, the process will help write a new chapter in the history of Australian higher education.

Bradley said she was "simultaneously excited and strifed" to lead the long-overdue review, which will focus on its key areas including access, diversity, quality and articulation arrangements with the vocational education and training sector.

"I felt very honoured by the education minister Julia Gillard's speech and I am absolutely on board with the kinds of policy aims she has. I would certainly like to see an equitable and high-quality system that is sustainable," Bradley told *Compuserve*.

"The issues that face higher education are not

just of the moment. These are issues faced by higher education institutions and systems in every country."

Bradley, who is the former vice-chancellor of the University of South Australia, will lead a four-person expert panel in the review. They will provide a report on priority action by the end of October and a final report by the end of the year.

The other members of the review panel will be Peter Noonan, a consultant in societal and higher education, Helen Nugent, chair of the 1999 ministerial inquiry into the performing arts, and Bill Scales, chancellor of Swinburne University.

In announcing the review, Gillard said it will take a long-term view of the sector and put in place a policy framework that covers at least a decade.

"The inescapable conclusion is that Australia needs a new direction in societal higher education

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policy," Gillard said. "One of our aims is to exploit fully our human capital potential in order to spread opportunity, raise economic productivity and transform the economic gains of the resources boom into sustainable prosperity for all Australians in the future."

Gillard paid her commitment to higher education was based on personal experience as well as irrefutable evidence as to the positive social and economic impact of an educated workforce on the economy.

"The job of improving our higher education system is an exciting opportunity for me personally. Like many of my colleagues in the government, I'm one of those whose horizons and opportunities in life were expanded enormously by access to quality public schools and affordable universities – first in Adelaide then Melbourne."

"This is something important that people should note about the new government, including the Prime Minister: education made us. As a result, we care about it deeply."

Gillard's announcement was greeted with enthusiasm.

"There is a sense of optimism within the sector that we're on the brink of a serious discussion of long overdue reforms for the sector," said Professor Richard James, chair and director of the Centre for the Study of Higher Education at

the University of Melbourne.

"The review group has a challenging task. Clearly, university funding needs to be dramatically improved, but reaching agreement as how this might be achieved won't be easy. Central to the review will be exploration of expanding participation and improving equity. This requires creating a better relationship between higher education and VET, and improving the alignment of higher education with workplace productivity and areas of skill shortages. Along the way this will need a strategy for increasing institutional diversity without creating vertical differentiation."

Professor Jeanette Hackett, vice-chancellor of Curtin University, was among the chorus of supportive voices but expressed serious concern about the viability of the sector until such time as the recommendations of the review are put into place.

"Gillard was very frank about acknowledging the extent to which Australian education has fallen behind because of inadequate infrastructure and funding," Hackett said.

"However, my concern is whether or not the government is going to make funding available in 2009 when we go back to base-level funding with indexation of about 2 per cent."

"This is in a context where there is very strong demand for salaries and the cost of delivery is going up."

Gillard has said 2009 will be spent in negotiations with

HECS-style loans back on the agenda

By John Ross

The Rudd Government has opened up the possibility of HECS-style loans to pay for student services, nine months after that was ruled out by its former education spokesperson.

Income-contingent loans is one of three options outlined by the federal government in a discussion paper on restoring student services on university campuses in the aftermath of the Howard Government's voluntary student unionism (VSU) legislation.

Direct government funding of student services is another option raised in the paper, which was launched last week by youth and sports minister Kate Ellis.

A third option would see funding responsibilities shared. Universities would pay for services such as sports and child care, while the government would provide student advocacy services, "similar to the way it funds community legal centres".

The paper invites submissions on funding options and what student services, amenities and representation arrangements would be appropriate.

It also invites discussion on the financial impacts of VSU and changes in student service provision, representation and advocacy since VSU

organizations or groups which access these services, then it may be appropriate for them to make a contribution. But the primary obligation in my mind rests with the universities and the Commonwealth."

The discussion paper said the HECS-style approach was one of "various options" raised by the National Union of Students (NUS). It said the NUS had not endorsed any particular model.

This approach was echoed last week by treasurer Wayne Swan, who was asked last week by opposition students. "I am not ruling anything in or out, because we are in a budget process," he told Parliament.

Ellis's spokesperson said the minister was listening to the community and keeping all ideas on the table. He said the primary focus of her on-the-table two-week national tour would be to meet stakeholder groups to discuss student services.

The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) welcomed the discussion paper and the government's consultative approach. "I think there'll be a lot of innovative suggestions on how we cope with the VSU impact," CAPA president Nigel Palmer told *Compuserve*.

"Will there be some sort of deferred HECS-style loan arrangement? That looks likely, but there are complicating factors. Not all students are enro

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was introduced in mid-2006. The deadline for submissions is 31 March.

"Key issues concerning post-VSU funding options include additional funding from government, and what form this should take," the paper says.

"A relevant issue is how much funding should be raised via user funding. If a HECS-style loan scheme was followed, the debt could be in Commonwealth-supported places. What happens in the case of a full-fee paying student or one with HECS exemption?"

"As people start addressing the detail of some of these proposals, they'll see they're not as straightforward as you might think at first glance. There will be strengths and weaknesses to any model," Palmer said CAPA would outline the proposals in a response to the discussion paper, in support of a continued Ellis's role in

Conditional funding comes to an end

By Julie Hare

Education Minister Julia Gillard last week took the decisive step towards ending conditional university funding arrangements based on compliance with workplace arrangements (HEWRRS) and the 11 National Protocols.

Gillard introduced a bill which will amend the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* by repealing section 33-17. The section requires universities to meet certain conditions before receiving Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding for research.

"The move was welcomed by researchers and their institutions to develop a robust approach to research quality assurance that is internationally recognised to be of the highest quality," said the pre-Christmas statement from Carr, whose pre-election promises involved scrapping the RQF in its existing form.

"This approach will take advantage of the existing work that has been done on metrics development but also make sure that robust quality measures are developed for the humanities, creative arts, and the social sciences."

The Labor model would see streamlined and would use metrics or other agreed quality measures appropriate to each research discipline.

Although universities have spent millions of dollars preparing for the RQF, many concede the exercise has been unhelpful no matter what the future holds.

Long-time RQF opponent Professor James Morla, vice-chancellor of the University of Adelaide, welcomed the cancellation. He said the RQF had been "a huge waste" of time and money for taxpayers and universities.

"I have always argued with the basic aims of the RQF, a framework aimed at ensuring that Australia's universities are conducting quality research," he said in a statement.

"However, the RQF ignored the basis on which most of our funding is provided – that is, competitive funding to increase red tape sectors."

RQF replacement coming soon

The Federal Government will unveil plans for a new model of research quality assurance – without the contentious 'impact' measure – early this year.

Senator Kim Carr officially scrapped the Coalition-developed Research Quality Framework just prior to Christmas. He said the model was fundamentally flawed.

But institutions would still receive the \$15.6 billion in implementation funding allocated under the former government, Carr said.

"The RQF is poorly designed, administratively expensive and relies on an 'impact' measure that is unverifiable and ill-defined," he said in a statement.

The Government would announce a timeline for implementing its new metrics-driven approach early in 2008, the statement said. It would also detail the process for consulting the sector about quality measures.

The RQF model, first announced by former Prime Minister John Howard in 2004, proposed measuring the quality and impact of publicly funded research. Assessments were to be done by expert panels, with the first funding to be

Vice-chancellors give high marks to Gillard plan

Alexander Symonds and Rachel Lebihan

As Education Minister Julia Gillard rose to speak late last week at *The Australian Financial Review's* higher education summit, she did so with the weight of expectations of each of the nation's vice-chancellors firmly on her shoulders.

In Ms Gillard's speech there were no new dollars for the sector, but instead the promise of another review of higher education.

Still, her words were most warmly welcomed – unsurprising, perhaps, considering the unhappy memories universities have of their time under the Howard government.

The recently retired vice-chancellor of the University of Queensland, John Hay, called the address "the first positive speech heard in 12

years". It was a comment that drew a murmur of consensus from the audience at the summit.

Alan Robson, vice-chancellor of the University of Western Australia and chairman of the Group of Eight, said: "It was one of the best speeches I've heard from an education minister in quite a while."

While both qualified their comments – Professor Hay said the government had to urgently take account of the "appalling" infrastructure costs facing universities, and Professor Robson had hoped for a more focused review – there was a sense that Labor had motivated the sector and shown commitment.

Professor Robson also pointed to three words in the speech that he said implied real commitment: Ms Gillard said that for her, Prime Minister Rudd, and the new

government, "education made us".

The review has wide terms of reference and will include an examination of the funding "compacts" that the government proposes to establish with each university. Ms Gillard anticipated

It was one of the best speeches I've heard from an education minister.

UWA's Alan Robson

we are saying that we think that the funding needs to recognise the diversity of the university system," she told the *AFR* following the conference last week.

"There's a pretence that there's a one size fits all when it comes to universities, but we know our university system has diversity. I would expect that diversity to grow ... that we would have institutions that are highly research focused; we will have institutions that are focused on the mass education of undergraduates; we will have universities that are strongly focused on being a part of their local communities ... and the funding structure we're talking about is one that recognises and rewards that diversity."

The review's chairwoman, former University of South Australia vice-

chancellor and president Denise Bradley, said she had concerns about the review's scale but felt it was important to conduct it in a broad way. "The emphasis in the terms of reference on how you get a mass higher education system which offers an opportunity is fantastic," she said.

"One of the great things both [Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Minister] Kim Carr and Julia Gillard have made clear is that the research and university sector is one where they expect there is broad debate ... and that they do understand that there are problems about the current policy setting, and they do understand that there are mixed views about how to address those. And the position from the minister is in fact that the government will listen to the review."