

29 May 2015

IRU STATEMENT 06/2015

Response to National Strategy for International Education

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) is a policy group actively engaged in integrating Australia's education and research with the world around us and improving outcomes both domestically and internationally.

Today, IRU releases a response to the Draft National Strategy for International Education outlining its support for the medium term strategy.

The intention is for the Strategy to provide a comprehensive guide to support international education and research driving the actions of all relevant agencies. The draft does much to set this up but gaps remain. In particular the place of research in the Strategy is not yet fully realised.

The IRU highlight seven issues for improvement:

1. the application of the Strategy across all Government agencies to ensure coherence of purpose and the related challenge of alignment with State and Territory support for local institutions' international activity;
2. raising research engagement to be on an equal footing with student mobility, linking Australia's researchers with researchers and with research users around the world, particularly in Asia;
3. addressing the connection between international students who study in Australia and Australia's skilled immigration programmes;
4. countering ill-formed public assumptions about international education;
5. the use and meaning of international rankings;
6. rejuvenating language study; and
7. ensuring a coherent national quality framework for all students.

The IRU response can be downloaded in full [here](#).

END

For comment contact

IRU Executive Director, Conor King **M:** 0434 601 691