MEDIA STATEMENT
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ACPET seeks Commonwealth action to support NSW Government migration strategy

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) commends the NSW Government on its comprehensive plan to boost business, skilled and investor migration to the state, and called on the Commonwealth to back the state strategy.

Released this week by Deputy Premier and Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon Andrew Stoner MP, the NSW Strategy for Business Migration & Attracting International Students is focused on filling skills gaps by streamlining visa processing and providing broader options for overseas investors and international students seeking to come to NSW.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said the strategy articulates the NSW Government’s strong commitment to building the state’s skills base, while recognising the vital contribution made by international students and their families to the NSW economy.

“We congratulate the Deputy Premier and the NSW Government on the strategy, which sends a clear message to international students, investors and business migrants that NSW is indeed ‘open for business’,” Ms Field said.

“NSW has been a key destination for international students seeking a high-quality tertiary education, and ACPET members look forward to being part of the revitalised education sector promised by this strategy.

“We are heartened by the government’s clear commitment to work with the Commonwealth to extend streamlined visa processing and post-study work rights for students at high-quality VET providers.

“It is high time the Commonwealth took note of NSW Government leadership in this area and agreed to extend post-study work rights to the VET sector,” Ms Field said.

“The more time the Commonwealth takes to consider this issue – along with changes to visa processing – the more international students choose to study in other global destinations where they are welcomed with open arms.

“The NSW Government strategy aims to ensure international students see NSW as their first choice – this should be supported by speedy action on these issues at a Commonwealth level.”

ACPET said that the NSW Government should take this opportunity to ensure international students were made truly welcome by extending concessional travel benefits to them, as are provided in all other states and territories with the exception of Victoria.

Claire Field is available for comment.
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