MEDIA RELEASE
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ACPET welcomes 500,000+ international students to Australian institutions

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) has welcomed new statistics which show that Australia’s attractiveness as a destination of choice for international students continues to boom.

Figures released by the Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard reveal that international enrolments grew by 120% last year. A total of 543,898 students enrolled in Australian institutions in 2008 which was the largest increase in numbers since 2002.

“These figures confirm how important international students are to our economy and that Australian education is seen worldwide as high quality and attractive,” Andrew Smith, National Executive Officer of ACPET said.

“International education is not a ‘one way street’ on which the student has everything to gain and our Australian society has everything to give,” he said.

“On the contrary, international students diversify and enrich our national culture, forge longstanding personal and professional links between Australia and the rest of the world and contribute more than $14 billion to the national economy each year.

“We should be really proud at how this sector is growing and what we are doing to enrich the lives of hundreds of thousands of students through our world class educational institutions,” Mr Smith said.

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