MEDIA RELEASE
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International Student Safety

ACPET members and their students both in Victoria and around the country will be concerned about the recent acts of violence perpetrated against Indian students in Australia, and the diplomatic concerns that have subsequently been raised about student safety.

ACPET condemns unequivocally these abhorrent acts of violence against Indian students. There is no place for violence of this nature in our community.

Of the nearly 415,000 international students currently in Australia, just over 18% are from India and of these around two thirds study with private providers. ACPET therefore believes it to be appropriate that we respond to this issue.

In recent days we have been working closely with police, Government officials and other parties to provide whatever assistance we can to ensure the safety of students and to take practical steps to address concerns about public safety.

The safety and welfare of international students is a paramount concern to ACPET and to all of our members. Every student, whether they are from Australia or overseas, deserves to not only receive the best possible education, but also to have a safe, enriching and positive cultural experience during their studies.

ACPET members can be assured that we are taking a number of proactive steps to reassure students in Australia, as well as the international community, of our industry’s commitment to providing a safe environment for international students.

It is fundamentally important that we remain calm and measured in our response to this serious issue so that our actions are meaningful and address what is clearly a significant issue without creating undue or additional tension.

Australia is one of the world’s most popular destinations for international students not just because of the high quality education we offer, but also because of the positive life and cultural experiences we offer to students. These senseless acts reflect badly on us as a nation, so we must remain focused on
addressing them while not losing sight of the fact that the overwhelming majority of students enjoy a safe and enriching experience in Australia.

Already, ACPET is undertaking a number of steps, including:

- Direct communication with Indian student representatives to discuss their principal concerns about safety and security.
- Meeting with Government representatives at State and Federal levels to provide assistance and relevant information.
- Speaking with consular and Government representatives of India to reassure them of our members’ commitment to safety.
- A large-scale consumer survey and analysis of international students. This will document, on a scale never before undertaken in Australia, the concerns, issues, experiences and perspectives of Australia’s international student population.
- Engaging with international media outlets such as *The Times in India* to echo the Federal Government’s call for a calm, rational response and at the same time highlight the positive experiences of most international students in Australia.
- A roundtable of providers, students and key stakeholders to workshop strategies used by providers to facilitate student safety.

Our members need no reminding that international students diversify and enrich our national culture, forge longstanding personal and professional links between Australia and the rest of the world and act as ambassadors for Australian values and our ways of life.

ACPET will continue to work on your behalf to provide a genuine and meaningful response to students’ concerns about safety, and to reassure the international community of our commitment to ensuring students in Australia have the best possible experiences.

As always, member comment is both welcome and valued. Members are encouraged to complete a short survey. [Click here to go to the survey.](#)

Alternatively to contact [Steve Quirk](#)