ACPET commends NSW government on travel discounts for international students

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, today commended the NSW government on its announcement that travel discounts would be offered to international students. The announcement, which was made in India by Premier Barry O’Farrell and in Sydney by Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner, recognises the valuable contribution made by international students to New South Wales by reducing their transport costs while they are studying here.

“ACPET members in NSW, and the tens of thousands of international students enrolled with them, welcome this important announcement,” said Ms Field.

“ACPET has long-argued that travel discounts should be extended to international students in NSW, with our 2012 survey showing that students were reconsidering NSW and Victoria as study destinations due to the lack of travel concessions.

“We are very pleased that the NSW government has listened to students, and we have no doubt that the extension of travel discounts will reverse this trend and enhance the attractiveness of NSW as a place where international students are welcomed and valued,” she said.

“We trust that the implementation and administration of the discount scheme will be as smooth and straightforward as possible for the students involved and their education providers.

“While we note that the discount differs from that offered to full-time domestic students, we are cognisant of the government’s current budget constraints. ACPET would welcome an expansion of the scheme as the budget allows,” said Ms Field.

“It is now imperative that the Victorian government follow suit on this important issue.”

Claire Field is a member of the NSW government’s International Education and Research (IER) Taskforce and said it was important to see this initiative in the context of the Taskforce’s report, which includes a range of measures to improve the experiences of international students in NSW.

“The government’s announcement today, which will have a positive impact on more than 100,000 international students, implements the first of a number of our recommendations aimed at transforming the international education sector in NSW,” said Claire Field.

“The Deputy Premier and Parliamentary Secretary have referred to a number of other changes today as part of the release of the Taskforce’s action plan, including plans for a single agency responsible for international education in NSW. ACPET welcomes the Government’s response to the recommendations of the taskforce and looks forward to working with them on implementation,” she said.

ACPET is a program partner currently travelling with the NSW Premier’s delegation to India.

Claire Field is available for comment: 0411 240 671