

English Australia

MEDIA RELEASE



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SUE BLUNDELL APPOINTED TO NEW COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, today announced the membership of the Coordinating Council for International Education.

The Coordinating Council will be responsible for finalising Australia's first ever National Strategy for International Education.

The Council will comprise six Australian Government ministers and assistant ministers with responsibility for policies and programmes that support international education and six key education and industry experts. Sue Blundell, English Australia's Executive Director, has been appointed as one of these six experts.

"English Australia is extremely pleased that Sue has been appointed to the new Coordinating Council for International Education. This recognises not only her knowledge and expertise but also the vital role that English language teaching plays in Australia's International Education industry" said English Australia Chair, Marc Weedon-Newstead, in response to the announcement.

The Council will oversee the finalisation of a national strategy for international education and the development of an implementation plan, with the first meeting to be held on 18 June.

"I am delighted to be given the opportunity to contribute as a member of the Coordinating Council," said Ms Blundell, "there is important work to be done in ensuring we deliver a Strategy that reflects a coordinated and consistent approach across all levels of government and is developed in partnership with education providers, industry and the wider community."

The Council will be chaired by the Minister for Education and Training, with membership as follows:

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP (Chair)
The Hon Julie Bishop MP
The Hon Andrew Robb AO MP
The Hon Ian Macfarlane MP
Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham

Ms Sue Blundell
Ms Kate Carnell AO
The Hon Phil Honeywood
Ms Belinda Robinson
Mr Bill Spurr AO
Mr Malcolm White

For further information:

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English Australia

English Australia is the national peak body for the English language sector of international education, and represents over 120 member colleges throughout Australia that provide quality English language programs to students and professionals from around the world. 88% of the more than 163,000 international students learning English in Australia in 2014 chose to study with an English Australia member college.

As an association, English Australia has a focus on:

- *representing member colleges whose core business is English language teaching;*
- *delivering best practice support and expertise to member colleges; and*
- *providing the English language sector with global visionary leadership.*

Learning English in Australia

There are several reasons why students travel to English speaking countries to learn English. For those students who have an 'end goal' such as to undertake formal study, improving their English may be an important factor in getting them into their chosen course at a school, training provider or university. An increasing number of students also see learning English as key to a successful career, for example in international business; others come to prepare for travel or just to gain the experience of living in a foreign country.

A strong regulatory framework, attractive lifestyle, quality schools and the ability to flexibly combine study, travel and work on the various visa options available to them (tourist, working holiday, student) are primary reasons for Australia's appeal to people overseas considering learning English. Australia is the only country delivering English language training that has national standards specific to English language training that are required for all providers. The sector's quality assurance framework operates within the national Education Services for Overseas Students legislative framework that is the responsibility of the Department of Education and Training. This protects Australia's reputation for delivering quality education services and the interests of overseas students, by setting minimum standards and providing tuition and financial assurance.

The English language sector – the global context

Over 1,557,000 people travelled to an English speaking country to learn English in 2013 – globally the industry is worth over US\$11.7 billion. The top two destinations for international students wishing to learn English are the UK and the USA, followed by Canada and Australia. These top four destinations attract 85% of English language students and deliver 89% of student weeks.