

# English Australia MEDIA RELEASE



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## FIRST ENGLISH AUSTRALIA CHAIR HONOURED

The inaugural Chair of English Australia (formerly called the ELICOS Association), Christine Bundesen, received an Award in the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List released today.

The current Chair of English Australia, Chris Wallis, congratulated Ms Bundesen on behalf of the Association's member colleges and everyone in the English language training community. "The award is wonderful news and much-appreciated recognition of our sector of international education, an important contributor to education and cultural exchange between Australia and the rest of the world.

"Christine Bundesen was one of the prime movers in the establishment and development of the Australian international education for overseas students industry which has grown in just 25 years to become one of the nation's largest exports.

"She has been both a pioneer and an exceptional leader of the English language training sector and international education as a whole both nationally and globally" Ms Wallis said.



Ms Bundesen helped establish the ELICOS Association in the 1980's and was voted in as the inaugural Chair, a position she held for 12 years. She played a significant role in establishing the legislative and regulatory framework for Australian international education and still plays a key role on the Board of English Australia.

Her first appointment in international education was as a tutor in the first English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students Centre at the University of Queensland in 1982. She has remained with that University being appointed as Director of the Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education in 1996. Since then she has built the Institute into one of the foremost education providers in its field.

In 2001 Ms Bundesen was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal for 'contributing to the overseas student visa programs and the teaching of English', and in 2005 she was awarded a medal by the Danang People's Committee of Vietnam in recognition of her extensive educational development work in Vietnam.

For further information:

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Christine received her MA from the University of Manitoba, Canada, in 1982 and on her return to Australia she was appointed to what is now the Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education at the University of Queensland (ICTE-UQ) which commenced with three students in 1981. The Institute now boasts the delivery of a variety of programs to thousands of students each year. That same year Christine, along with five others, established an informal group of ELICOS providers which became the ELICOS Association in 1983 (and subsequently English Australia). Six years later Christine played a major role in the association's incorporation in 1990 and for the first ten years served as Chair of English Australia, having served as Convenor for the two years prior to that. Christine has continued to serve as a General Delegate of the English Australia Council until the present day.

Christine has played a major role throughout her career in developing, furthering and promoting ELICOS within and outside Australia, and within and outside the sector. She was instrumental in changing the name of the ELICOS Association to English Australia in 2000 (promptly followed by English UK, English South Africa and English NZ!). She was a key player in the international education negotiations with the Australian federal government for the first ESOS Act. When the federal government washed its hands of the sector in response to unethical behaviour by some colleges during the China Crisis of 1991, Christine took a couple of weeks off work and drafted the standards for what is now known as the National ELT Accreditation Scheme (NEAS).

Christine has served on the boards of IDP Education Australia and IELTS Australia, and was also on the inaugural AIEF (renamed as AEI) Board. She was Member and inaugural Chairperson of the University of Cambridge ESOL Teaching Awards Advisory Council from 1996 to 2006.

She has been a member of the GISC (Government Industry Stakeholder Consultation) DEEWR/DIAC group 1996-2010; the DEEWR/AESOC Transnational Quality Strategy (TQS) Reference and Working Groups 2005-2008; the Queensland DIAC Client Reference Group (CRG) 2006-2010; the Cambridge ESOL Australia Advisory Group 2009-2010; and the English Australia /Cambridge ESOL Action Research Program Reference Group.

Christine has previously been recognised for her services to Australian international education. In 1997 she was presented with the inaugural National Award for Outstanding Contribution to Leadership in International Education by IDP Education Australia. In 2003 Christine was awarded an Australian Prime Minister's Award of a Centenary Medal for her "Work to Reform Overseas Student Visa Programs and Teaching of English to Overseas Students".



Christine was also presented with the inaugural English Australia Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding service to the ELICOS industry by outgoing Chair of English Australia, Seamus Fagan, at the English Australia Conference gala dinner on 17 September 2010.

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*English Australia is the national peak body for the English language sector of international education, and represents over 100 member colleges throughout Australia that provide quality English language programs to students and professionals from around the world. Over 80% of the more than 130,000 international students learning English in Australia in 2011 chose to study with an English Australia member college.*