

English Australia

Media Release



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ENGLISH AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

English Australia is pleased to announce that Chris Wallis, Director of Swinburne College, has been appointed to the role of Chair of the English language industry peak body, with Marc Weedon-Newstead, Principal/Group Executive of the UNSW Institute of Languages, taking up the role of Deputy Chair.

In their new roles, Ms Wallis and Mr Weedon-Newstead will work closely with Bianca Panizza, the association's other Deputy Chair, to lead the English Australia Board in guiding the strategic direction of English Australia.

Sue Blundell, Executive Director of English Australia, said "The English language sector in Australia is facing a challenging environment with a strong Australian \$ and student visa program reforms impacting on overseas student enrolments. Strong leadership at this time is essential. The ELICOS industry and its peak body are fortunate to have people with Chris, Marc and Bianca's experience and commitment willing to dedicate their time and energy to the work of the industry association."

Ms Wallis said "The current batch of regulatory changes combined with the other factors affecting the international education industry will impact particularly on the English language sector with its totally international student base. The challenge for English Australia now will be to assist member colleges to successfully negotiate their way through this next period of change."

Mr Weedon-Newstead said "These are testing times for ELICOS sector which is 100% reliant on international students. Declining enrolments have impacted on revenues and jobs across public and private providers of English courses."

English Australia is currently focused on working collaboratively with the commonwealth government to roll out the reforms of the Knight Review and the Baird Review and to position the industry strongly for future sustainable growth.

[English Australia is the national peak body for colleges that provide English language intensive courses to overseas students. It represents the interests of member colleges, and promotes quality in English language training. Today, English Australia has over 100 member colleges, representing over 130 accredited training centres across Australia. The English language industry straddles formal education pathway programs, English language for professional purposes and Language Travel – programs with language study and tourism combined.]

For further information:

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English Australia – leading, supporting and representing the international English language industry in Australia