

Media Release —

Coronavirus Leaves 2,000+ Chinese Vocational Students Offshore

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For Immediate Release

The impact of the Novel Coronavirus on the independent tertiary education sector is currently being assessed in order to develop strategies to support both students and providers. The lead role is being undertaken by the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA), the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational education, training and skills sectors.

“The global spread of the Novel coronavirus will have a significant impact on Australia’s international education sector, particularly with reference to the travel restrictions on Chinese students. ITECA’s focus is on ensuring that the independent tertiary education sector is able to support these students through their current difficulties and into the future,” said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

Australia’s independent tertiary education sector enjoys a strong international reputation for quality. Independent providers support around 90% of all international students undertaking vocational education and training.

Australian Government data for February 2020 suggests that the vocational education and training sector was set to support some 13,604 students that were residents of China. Of these some 10,935 are already in Australia with a further 2,669 holding a student travel visa still outside the country.

“Our interest is in supporting these students through the current difficulties and ensuring that when current travel restrictions are lifted, the students are able to undertake their studies in Australia and access the quality outcomes that independent providers offer,” Mr Williams said.

ITECA is also working with its members to ascertain the impact that the Novel coronavirus is having on their day-to-day operations.

“The Australian Government’s engagement with ITECA on this matter has been first-rate. As new challenges arise, we’ll collaborate with the Australian Government on developing an appropriate response,” Mr Williams concluded.

ITECA is a participant on the ‘Australian Government Council for International Education – Global Reputation Taskforce’ which is considering future challenges to the reputation and operation of the sector arising from both the Novel coronavirus outbreak and the bushfire crisis.

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