

Education

Fast Facts '24

Take the lead

15 May 2024

International students capping (Applies 1 January 2025)

- The government announced new legislation to allow the education minister to set a maximum number of new international student enrolments education providers can offer.
- A similar cap set by or on advice from the skills and training minister will operate for the VET sector.
- These will limit the number of international students that can be enrolled over a particular period of time including within specific courses or locations.
- International student numbers for universities to be regulated based on purpose-built student accommodation capacity ("PBSA"), to reduce pressure on private rental market.
- To increase international enrolments above the initial allocation, universities will be required to establish new PBSA (available to both local and international students)

Universities

- From 1 July 2025, the Commonwealth Prac Payment will provide more than 73,000 eligible students, including teachers, nurses, midwives and social workers with \$319.50 per week during their placements.
- Minimum of 40% of university Student Services and Amenities Fee revenue to student-led organisations from 1 January 2025 (previously no minimum).
- Government target of 80% of working aged people to obtain degrees by 2050, will ensure significant growth in the future and effectively double university placements. On the back of the Universities Accord response, further reforms to the higher education system have been announced, pending consultation,

including the implementation of a needs-based funding system for higher education providers from January 2026.

TAFE funding

- The Government will also invest \$88.8 million to deliver 20,000 new fee-free TAFE places including pre-apprenticeships in courses relevant to the construction sector.
- \$28.1m to fast track up to 6 new TAFE centres of excellence, to support partnerships between TAFEs, Jobs and Skills Councils, industry and universities
- Access to \$10,000 incentive payments and support our target of 10,000 new energy apprentices.
- \$50m for a TAFE Technology Fund – to improve workshops, laboratories and IT facilities
- \$50m over 3 years to support co-investment on new and upgraded TAFE facilities (deliver clean energy qualifications)

Students and access

- People with HELP debts, VET student loans and Australian Apprenticeship Support Loans and other student loans will have their debts reduced as the federal government changes how the loans accrue interest. Interest will grow each year at the rate of either the consumer price index or the wage price index — whichever is lower.
- To provide more pathways to university for students who do not qualify for direct entry, \$350m to expand access to university through a FEE-FREE Uni Ready Course program from 1 January 2025

We score it: **1/5**



This update is like searching for buried treasure but only finding a rusty old nail. A lacklustre 1 out of 5.



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