



Troy Grant MP

Deputy Premier of NSW

Minister for Trade and Investment

MEDIA RELEASE

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FUNDING BOOST FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROJECTS

The creation of a “buddy” support system and a new “one stop shop” online information resource are among the projects to be funded by the NSW Government to improve international student experiences across the State.

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Trade and Investment Troy Grant today announced more than \$170,000 in StudyNSW co-funding support for seven projects developed by education institutions and stakeholders.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government wants international students to get the most out of their time with us because they are important ambassadors for NSW when they return to their home countries,” Mr Grant said.

“Through our StudyNSW Partner Projects program, we are funding projects with some of our key stakeholders who are aiming to enhance the international student experience in NSW and generate market development opportunities.

“Our international education sector contributes about \$5.7 billion annually to our economy and is the State’s largest services export. The falling Aussie dollar presents a golden opportunity for us to attract even more international students to NSW.

“The presence of international students in our schools, colleges and universities brings a personal dimension to NSW’s global relationships.”

The seven StudyNSW Partner Projects are:

- \$50,000 for the **Australian Catholic University and the universities of NSW, Sydney, Technology Sydney and Western Sydney** to deliver a semester length “Creating Entrepreneurs” pilot program to foster international students’ entrepreneurial skills and enhance future employability;
- \$10,000 for **TAFE NSW – South Western Sydney Institute** to develop a “buddy” support program for selected international students assessed as at risk of not completing their studies – from this, a best practice guide will be developed and shared with the NSW international education sector;
- \$33,000 for **RDA Hunter, TAFE NSW – Hunter Institute and University of Newcastle** to develop an online “one-stop shop” resource and app promoting the Hunter region as a study destination for international students, with up-to-date study, accommodation and lifestyle information in multiple languages;
- \$30,000 for the **International Education Association of Australia** to address challenges of international student accommodation in NSW and develop effective solutions, including a one day symposium;

- \$27,500 for the **Redfern Legal Centre** to provide a legal consultation service and identify a sustainable funding model for a free specialist international student legal advice service;
- \$16,500 for the **Australian Council for Private Education and Training** to develop a pilot program to educate five vocational education and training providers in planning, implementing and evaluating tailored international education business and marketing strategies; and
- \$10,900 for the **Council of the City of Sydney** to provide two paid internships to international students over the age of 18 – from all NSW education providers – for one day of work integrated learning experience a week for 12 weeks.

The NSW Government established StudyNSW, an agency within NSW Trade & Investment, in July 2014 to work with the international education sector to ensure its long-term growth.

More details are available at www.trade.nsw.gov.au