

From: [Leach, Wayne \(AU\)](#)
To: [Kolacz, Miriam](#)
Cc: [Martin, Jaime](#)
Subject: RE: UniProjects - request for further information [SEC=OFFICIAL] [ACCC-ACCCANDAER.FID2876196] [KWM-DOCUMENTS.FID3986705]
Date: Tuesday, 28 September 2021 3:00:45 PM
Attachments: [NSWVCC media release re international students - 24 September 2021.pdf](#)
[John Barilaro Dominic Perrottet Stuart Ayres med rel - Pilot plan to return international students.pdf](#)

Dear Miriam

We attach a copy of the media release by the NSW Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney (which you have already seen), together with a copy of the media release by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee (**NSW VCC**) – published on 24 September 2021 – in relation to the pilot plan to see the return of fully vaccinated international students to NSW.

As set out in the NSW VCC's media release, the pilot program will commence once the lockdown in NSW ends with the state reaching the 70% vaccination target.

UniProjects anticipates that the first phase of the pilot plan will enable approximately 500 international students to return to NSW on chartered flights, paid for by the students, by the end of 2021.

Following further discussions, the seats on these flights will be made available in accordance with the methodology set out in the application for authorisation dated 26 May 2021 (as varied).

If the ACCC has any questions about the pilot program, UniProjects would be pleased to assist.

Best regards
Wayne

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New South Wales Vice-Chancellors' Committee Media Statement

24 September 2021

NSW universities welcome greenlight for NSW International Student Plan

The NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee has welcomed the NSW Government's announcement to allow a small number of international students to return to NSW in the later months of 2021.

"After more than 18 months of planning, we are delighted that both the Federal and State Governments are supportive of an incremental reopening of our borders to international students" said the Convener of the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee, Professor Barney Glover AO.

"This has been a collaborative effort and we thank the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney for leading the State's economic recovery and enabling the safe reintroduction of our international students to our local communities as part of the broader NSW roadmap.

"We will be ready to go once the lockdown in NSW ends with the state reaching the 70 per cent vaccination target," said Professor Glover. "In the meantime, universities continue to work closely with government on the logistics and are following public health advice regarding the Delta outbreak.

The Convener emphasised that international student arrivals will not impact the capacity for Australians looking to return home through Sydney: "This pathway is industry led and funded, and it is important to note that students will still be required to complete 14 days of quarantine in government supervised purpose-built student accommodation," Professor Glover said.

"We know the pilot is small in scale, but it is a critical milestone that will allow us to test and refine our plans and processes before committing to a full return. We want to ensure a safe return for all our international students as well as keep our community safe. The pilot will be evaluated after the first two flights with the view to scaling up as quickly as possible thereafter.

-END-

NSWVCC MEMBERS:

Australian Catholic University • Australian National University • Charles Sturt University • Macquarie University • Southern Cross University
University of Canberra • University of Newcastle • University of New England • University of New South Wales • University of Notre Dame
The University of Sydney • University of Technology Sydney • University of Wollongong • Western Sydney University

Contact: Amanda Whibley,



John Barilaro

Deputy Premier

Dominic Perrottet

Treasurer

Stuart Ayres

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 24 September 2021

PILOT PLAN TO RETURN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

A pilot plan that will see the phased return of fully vaccinated international students to NSW has been given the green light by the Commonwealth Government, with the first flight touching down by the end of this year.

Accommodation provider Scape has been confirmed to house the returning students for a 14-day quarantine in Redfern, at a building retrofitted to accommodate up to 650 students to COVIDSafe standards approved by NSW Health and NSW Police.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade John Barilaro said the staggered return of students was stage one of a pilot that would slowly expand and evolve, as vaccination rates continue to rise in NSW and internationally.

“The international education sector sustains thousands of jobs across NSW, and I’m proud that NSW is leading the way with the return of international students to our shores,” Mr Barilaro said.

“The safety of the people of NSW is paramount and we are taking no risks. All participating students will be required to be fully vaccinated with a TGA-recognised COVID-19 vaccine, and strict quarantine protocols will be in place.

“Importantly, this plan will not come at the expense of any Australian citizen or resident wishing to return home.”

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the program was vital to the State’s economic recovery, creating jobs and restoring growth.

“International education plays an important role in connecting NSW to the world,” Mr Perrottet said. “As we implement a range of efforts to reboot our economy, rebuilding the sector - which was worth \$14.6 billion to NSW in 2019 - is a key part of our efforts.”

Education partners including Australian Catholic University, Macquarie University, The University of Newcastle, The University of Sydney, UNSW, UTS, University of Wollongong and Western Sydney University, plus independent providers the International College of Management Sydney, Kaplan, Navitas, RedHill and Study Group, have signed up to the industry-funded pilot plan.

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said NSW was the top destination in Australia for international students.

“More than 57,000 students are currently overseas, with many desperate to return, resume their studies, part-time jobs, connect with friends and continue their journey in our world-leading institutions,” Mr Ayres said.

The first phase of the pilot plan is anticipated to bring back 500 international students to NSW on chartered flights, paid for by the students, by the end of the year.

Scape CEO Anouk Darling said the company was proud to be involved in the pilot.

“Our Scape team are proud to partner with the NSW Government and our world class education sector, here in NSW, to welcome our returning international students into our most advanced and COVID-safe student accommodation facility at Scape Redfern,” Ms Darling said.

The announcement was welcomed by the higher education sector with Professor Barney Glover AO, Governor of the NSW Vice-Chancellors’ Committee thanking the NSW Government.

“After over 18 months of planning, we are delighted that both the Australian and NSW Government are supportive of a pilot plan for an incremental reopening of our borders to our international students,” Mr Glover said.

Council of International Students Australia President, Belle Lim, welcomed the detailed planning and collaborative approach.

“We all want international students back on campus, enjoying the unique learning, work and life experience that only studying in Australia can deliver. We support the cautious approach and look forward to growing the number of students returning to NSW over time,” Ms Lim said.

CEO of Independent Higher Education Australia Simon Finn said the private higher education sector welcomes the pilot’s launch and commends the NSW Government’s unwavering focus on community safety, international student welfare and rebuilding the state economy.

“By working with the Independent Higher Education Australia (IHEA) on this pilot from the beginning, the NSW Government has demonstrated its commitment to supporting both the private and public education sector,” Mr Finn said.

Participating education providers will contact students to progress an expression of interest for the pilot plan.

Vision of international students can be found [here](#).

MEDIA: Sarah Bannerman | Deputy Premier | [REDACTED]
Amber Muir | Treasurer | [REDACTED]
Sophie Hull | Minister Ayres | [REDACTED]