



Gavin Jones
Director, Competition Exemptions
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

exemptions@accc.gov.au

Dear Mr Jones,

Re: UniProjects application for authorisation AA1000554 – interested party consultation

On behalf of Investment NSW and NSW Treasury, we wish to express our support for the above application made by UniProjects Pty Ltd on behalf of the 14 member universities of the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee seeking authorisation to collaborate between each other to facilitate the return of their international students to Australia.

The NSW Government has been working closely with the member universities for over 12 months to develop a safe plan in accordance with the Commonwealth Government's *Protocols and Preconditions for International Student Arrivals*. On 10 June 2021, the Honourable Dominic Perrottet MP, NSW Treasurer, announced that the plan had been submitted to the Commonwealth Government for review. This plan is imperative to support the recovery of the NSW economy and has the full support of the NSW Government.

The plan will prioritise the return of continuing students who were previously in Australia but returned home and were unable to come back following border closures. Prioritising these students will ensure fairness and protect our reputation as a study destination.

This collective effort will be funded by the higher education sector (universities and independent higher education providers), with the governance and operational oversight of key NSW Government agencies – including NSW Health, NSW Police, with coordination by Study NSW – and the endorsement of the Commonwealth Government.

Without the collaboration, the steady return of international students in an orderly manner would be unachievable while border restrictions remain in place. This collaboration provides a clear pathway for international students to return to NSW in terms of cost, flights and quarantine arrangements.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Amy Brown
CEO Investment NSW

Michael Pratt AM
NSW Treasury Secretary

15/06/2021