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Dr Lyndal Groom is the Branch Manager, International Strategy in the International Group at the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. Lyndal's responsibilities cover statistical and survey-based research on international education to enable evidence-based policy development, management of Australia's bilateral and multilateral relationships with North Asia and Europe and through several multilateral fora including the OECD. In addition to these roles Lyndal is responsible for Australia's international education strategic policy framework development and whole-of-government interaction. Prior to her current role Lyndal has held roles in the Higher Education Group where she had responsibility for managing a number of tertiary education programmes primarily dealing with higher education funding. She also served as the Executive Director of the Australian Qualifications Framework Council.

Enjoying Australia: International Students and Our Communities

Australia is one of the most popular study destinations in the world for international students. Over the past 12 years, 1.5 million international students have been welcomed to study in Australia.

International education is Australia's largest services export, contributing \$16.3 billion in 2013-14 and supporting over 130,000 jobs nationally. But the benefits of international education extend well beyond being a mainstay of our economy. International education plays a strong role in nurturing cross-cultural networks. International students bring enormous benefits to our cities and towns and make a key contribution to multiculturalism in Australia.

For the first time, the Australian Government is developing a coordinated approach to international education through a national strategy. In April 2015, the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Christopher Pyne MP, released the Draft National Strategy for International Education for consultation.

A key action in the draft strategy is increasing engagement between international students and Australian students and communities. The draft strategy calls for a coordinated approach to raising awareness of the benefits that international students bring to Australia and to motivating Australian communities to connect with international students. Part of this work will highlight best practices and innovative approaches that help send a message that Australia welcomes international students and will help them achieve their aspirations.