

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Trade

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Racing



Wednesday, 17 February 2021

BRUMBY NAMED AS CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION BODY

Minister for Trade Martin Pakula today announced the appointment of former Victorian Premier John Brumby as the new Chair of the state's International Education Advisory Council.

Mr Brumby brings extensive education sector experience to the role as Chancellor of La Trobe University and Chair of the Advisory Board for the University of Melbourne School of Government. He will lead the Council in providing independent advice on issues relating to Victoria's renowned international education sector.

Minister Pakula thanked the outgoing Chair, Jane den Hollander AO, for her service to the Victorian international education sector and the community.

The International Education Advisory Council comprises industry representatives and provides advice to the Government to help Victoria maintain its standing as a destination of choice for international students.

The Andrews Labor Government is working closely with education providers and the Australian Government to welcome international students back to Victoria when it is safe to do so. The current Budget provides \$33.4 million to lay the foundation for a strong recovery for the sector.

When restrictions were introduced to slow the spread of coronavirus, the Labor Government responded quickly to support students and the sector.

Support has been provided through the \$45 million International Student Emergency Relief Fund, the \$50 million Emergency Hardship Support Program, the \$350 million Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund and a \$260 million TAFE funding package.

New International Education Advisory Council members will be announced on the Study Melbourne website (studymelbourne.vic.gov.au) as they are appointed.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Trade Martin Pakula

"I am delighted to welcome John Brumby as Chair of the International Education Advisory Council. His experience and strategic leadership will drive the council as it contributes to the sector's recovery."

"John's qualities are well known to the Victorian community and his understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for international education providers will be invaluable."

Quotes attributable to International Education Advisory Council Chair John Brumby

"I look forward to working with the Victorian Government and education providers on the best ways of supporting and maintaining international education through the COVID era."

"Our universities are one of Victoria's greatest strengths and a major driver of opportunity, new ideas and economic growth."

"International education enriches our society, supports the funding of university research and brings real diversity to the student population. It is Victoria's largest export earner and a huge driver of jobs."

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