



THE HON ANDREW ROBB AO MP

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

17 June 2015

Mr Gao Hucheng  
Minister of Commerce  
The People's Republic of China

Dear Minister Gao,

In connection with the signing of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement") and discussions in relation to Chapter 8 (Trade in Services), I have the honour to confirm the following understanding shared by the Governments of Australia and China to strengthen cooperation in the field of education services:

Australia and China share the view that education services are not only important in their own right, but also play an important role in facilitating trade and investment, enhancing growth and prosperity, and deepening mutual understanding, and institutional and people-to-people links between the two countries.

Noting China's commitment in its Schedule of Specific Commitments in Annex III to list within one year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement on the website [www.jsj.edu.cn](http://www.jsj.edu.cn) 77 Australian CRICOS (Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students)-registered higher education institutions, Australia will:

- (a) provide details of regulatory decisions made by the Australian Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) Commission concerning CRICOS-registered higher education institutions;
- (b) following the process of TEQSA re-registration, make available to China the public report. If a provider's risk assessment identifies an issue that results in a regulatory decision being made, TEQSA will also make that regulatory decision available. In the event that an institution does not have its registration renewed, or is given less than the maximum period of registration by TEQSA, TEQSA will provide the reasons for its decision; and
- (c) provide to China the courses that listed institutions are accredited to deliver, and the dates by which the institutions will have to apply for TEQSA and CRICOS re-

registration or course re-accreditation. Information contained within the public reports listed on the National Register of higher education institutions will be regularly provided to China through diplomatic channels.

Australia and China will make joint efforts to ensure the smooth implementation of the Agreement and will continue to discuss listing on the website [www.jsj.edu.cn](http://www.jsj.edu.cn) of additional CRICOS-registered institutions.

Australia and China maintain programs facilitating teacher and student exchanges. Australia's Department of Education and China's Ministry of Education will continue to discuss options to expand and enhance student and teacher mobility between both countries. China welcomes and supports the increase in Australian students studying in China under Australian Government-funded programs, including the New Colombo Plan.

Australia and China will ensure the legal rights and interests of students from the other country in accordance with their respective laws and regulations.

Australia's Department of Education and China's Ministry of Education will discuss options for marketing and recruitment opportunities for Australian education suppliers in China. Discussions will cover application processing, the issuing of offers and provision of visa assistance.

Australia welcomes China's interest in establishing Chinese international schools in Australia. In Australia, rules governing international schools are administered by state and territory governments.

I have the honour to propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares this understanding shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Robb

17 June 2015

The Hon Andrew Robb AO, MP  
Minister for Trade and Investment  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister Robb,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date, which reads as follows:

In connection with the signing of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (the “Agreement”) and discussions in relation to Chapter 8 (Trade in Services), I have the honour to confirm the following understanding shared by the Governments of Australia and China to strengthen cooperation in the field of education services:

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I have the honour to propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares this understanding shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

I have the further honour to confirm that my Government shares this understanding and that your letter and this letter in reply shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gao Hucheng  
Minister of Commerce  
The People's Republic of China