Independent schools welcome simplified student visa processing

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has welcomed the announcement of a new industry-wide simplified international student visa framework (SSVF).

The new framework was announced yesterday by the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, and Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash.

“We look forward to the new framework providing all sectors of education access to simplified student visa processing. We anticipate that this will facilitate an ongoing return to growth in the Independent schools sector,” commented ISCA Executive Director Dr Yvonne Luxford.

The SSVF will replace Streamlined Visa Processing (SVP) which was not accessible to all sectors of education, including schools, and which was criticised for creating distortions in the market for some sectors.

ISCA made a detailed submission to the Review of Streamlined Visa Processing advocating for a shift towards an industry-wide model which would be accessible across all sectors of education.

“Independent schools are currently engaged in a range of international education activities providing benefits to Australian and international children, and contributing to the diverse cultural landscape of our schools, and broader society.”

“This is an important first step in simplifying the operating environment for Independent schools engaged in international education and we look forward to working further with the departments of Education and Immigration to progress this initiative,” said Dr Luxford.

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