



# MINISTERS' MEDIA CENTRE

## Ministers of the Education Portfolio

Joint Media Release

26 August 2023

### Action to end rorts in international education

The Hon **Jason Clare** MP  
**Minister for Education**

The Hon Brendan O'Connor MP  
Minister for Skills and Training

The Hon **Clare O'Neil** MP  
**Minister for Home Affairs**

The Albanese Government is today announcing a package of measures to support integrity in the international education system and to support genuine international students.

**International education is our fourth largest export industry** and maintaining the quality and integrity of this sector is critical for the Australian economy and our relationships in our region.

The Government has closed a loophole which allows education providers to shift international students who have been in Australia for less than six months from genuine study to an arrangement designed to facilitate access to work in Australia.

There has been a sharp uptake in the use of the concurrent function in 2023 – in the first half of 2023, 17,000 concurrent enrolments were created, compared to approximately 10,500 for the same period in 2019 and 2022 combined.

Recent investigations have identified this misuse of 'concurrent enrolment' as an integrity issue for the international sector. This change takes effect immediately.

The Government will also increase the amount of savings international students will need in order to get a student visa. This requirement has not been indexed since 2019 and needs to increase to reflect higher living expenses. **From October 1 2023, international students will need to show evidence of \$24,505 in savings**, which is a 17% increase on current levels. This increase accounts for indexation since 2019.

This change will **ensure students coming to Australia to study can afford to support themselves** and will not face increased risk of exploitation due to an urgent need for employment.

The Government will apply additional scrutiny to high-risk cohorts and ask for additional documents to prevent fraud in applications.

The Government will also consider using its powers under Section 97 of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act (ESOS Act) to issue suspension certificates to high-risk education providers. A suspension certificate means providers would not be able to recruit international students.

This would be the first time an Australian Government has used this power and reflects how seriously the Albanese Government takes the issue of dodgy providers. The Government will immediately begin consulting on possible regulations to set clear grounds for the use of suspension certificates, such as application rates with fraudulent documents and provider refusal rates. The Government is particularly concerned about more than 200 providers that currently have visa refusal rates higher than 50%.

The Government is considering further measures to strengthen integrity in the international education system as part of the Migration Strategy, which is due to be released later this year.

#### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Jason Clare:**

“International student numbers are almost back to where they were before the pandemic. That’s a good thing. **International education is an extraordinarily valuable national asset.**”

“But there are also challenges in international education. As students have come back, so have some dodgy and unscrupulous players who are trying to take advantage of them.

“This change will work to stop predatory ‘second’ providers from enrolling students before they have studied for the required six months at their first provider.

“This will help ensure the integrity of **one of our biggest exports** while cracking down on dodgy operators.”

#### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Skills and Training, Brendan O’Connor:**

“These changes reflect our determination to strengthen the integrity of the VET sector.

“Nine out of 10 future jobs will require a post-secondary qualification and VET is a vital pathway to secure jobs. We are committed to lifting perceptions of VET and this is an important step to do that.

“Ensuring we have a fit for purpose VET sector is critical in responding to skills shortages, and teaching and training our existing and future workforce.”

#### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Home Affairs Clare O’Neil:**

“**International education is our fourth largest export** – it’s essential that we maintain our global reputation for quality education. Our government has no tolerance for people who exploit students.

“Our message is clear – the party is over, the rorts and loopholes that have plagued this system will be shut down.”

Australia's goods services by top 25 exports - Education-related travel services

Financial year	AUD Billion	Rank commodity
1990 - 1991	0.950	
2003 - 2004	7.766	
2004 - 2005	8.742	
2005 - 2006	9.745	
2006 - 2007	11.110	
2007 - 2008	13.740	
2008 - 2009		
2009 - 2010	17.350	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2010 - 2011	15.510	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2011 - 2012	14.768	4 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal and Gold.
2012 - 2013	14.461	4 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal and Gold.
2013 - 2014	15.743	
2014 - 2015	21.258	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2015 - 2016	24.145	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2016 - 2017	28.093	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2017 - 2018	32.602	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2018 - 2019	37.556	4 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal and Natiral Gas.
2019 - 2020	37.338	4 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal and Natiral Gas.
2020 - 2021	27.554	COVID-19 4 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal and Natiral Gas.
2021 - 2022	20.776	COVID-19 5 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal, Natiral Gas and Gold.
2022 - 2023	Not yet calculated	....., but "Australia needs, the measure will make Australia more attractive as a study destination, helping the recovery of the international education sector and boosting earnings from Australia's education exports."

**AUSTRALIA'S TOP 25 EXPORTS, GOODS & SERVICES**  
(A\$ million) (a)

Rank	Commodity	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	% growth	
					2010-11 to 2011-12	5 year trend growth
	<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>253,136</b>	<b>297,322</b>	<b>315,774</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>
1	Iron ore & concentrates	35,075	58,396	62,703	7.4	33.6
2	Coal	36,447	43,853	47,912	9.3	16.3
3	Gold (b)	14,300	14,256	16,650	16.8	7.2
4	Education-related travel services	17,350	15,510	14,768	-4.8	5.6
5	Personal travel (excl education) services	12,114	11,928	12,007	0.7	0.6
6	Natural gas	7,789	10,286	11,962	16.3	17.3
7	Crude petroleum	8,955	11,090	11,176	0.8	7.1
8	Wheat	3,636	5,482	6,354	15.9	18.5
9	Copper ores & concentrates	4,529	5,130	5,371	4.7	7.2
10	Aluminium ores & conc (incl alumina)	5,042	5,281	5,277	-0.1	-3.9
11	Beef, f.c.f.	4,109	4,527	4,683	3.4	-1.0
12	Aluminium	4,129	4,693	4,141	-11.8	-7.4
13	Business travel services	2,808	3,276	3,898	19.0	8.3
14	Copper	2,513	3,978	3,689	-7.3	3.5
15	Medicaments (incl veterinary)	3,709	3,359	3,622	7.8	0.6
16	Professional services	3,109	3,117	3,576	14.7	1.4
17	Technical & other business services	3,277	3,714	3,337	-10.2	1.8
18	Refined petroleum	2,412	2,665	3,186	19.5	-2.1
19	Cotton	755	1,367	2,737	100.2	31.7
20	Wool & other animal hair (incl tops)	2,013	2,623	2,693	2.7	0.4
21	Passenger transport services (d)	2,610	2,714	2,615	-3.6	-9.1
22	Meat (excl beef), f.c.f.	2,157	2,325	2,362	1.6	2.9
23	Other transport services (c)	2,188	2,253	2,283	1.3	2.0
24	Alcoholic beverages	2,302	2,122	2,028	-4.4	-7.9
25	Telecom, computer & information services	1,743	1,713	1,640	-4.3	-3.0
<b>Analytical industry series</b>						
	Education (e)	17,931	16,102	15,306	-4.9	5.7
	Tourism (f)	22,686	23,681	nya	..	..

(a) Goods trade is on a recorded trade basis, Services trade is on a balance of payments basis. (b) Balance of payments basis.

(c) Other transport services exports covers a range of services provided in Australian airports and ports, including Cargo & baggage handling services, Agents fees associated with freight transportation and Airport & port charges. (d) Includes Related agency fees & commissions. (e) Education services includes Education related travel services, Royalties on education services and Other education services. (f) Tourism is based on the ABS Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) and is only available on a financial year basis. Account (TSA) and is only available on a financial year basis.

nya - not yet available

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database and ABS catalogue 5368.0 (Sep 2012).

**AUSTRALIA'S TOP 25 EXPORTS, GOODS & SERVICES**  
(A\$ million) (a)

Rank	Commodity	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	% growth	
					2011-12 to 2012-13	5 year trend
	<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>297,321</b>	<b>315,638</b>	<b>301,499</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>
1	Iron ore & concentrates	58,396	62,695	57,082	-9.0	23.7
2	Coal	43,853	47,912	38,640	-19.4	6.1
3	Gold	13,608	15,814	15,301	-3.2	2.9
4	Education-related travel services	15,500	14,711	14,461	-1.7	1.6
5	Natural gas	10,286	11,949	14,271	19.4	16.2
6	Personal travel (excl education) services	11,788	11,864	12,583	6.1	0.7
7	Crude petroleum	11,090	11,175	9,719	-13.0	3.4
8	Wheat	5,482	6,351	6,750	6.3	16.7
9	Aluminium ores & conc (incl alumina)	5,281	5,277	5,565	5.5	-1.9
10	Copper ores & concentrates	5,130	5,387	5,352	-0.6	7.7
11	Beef, f.c.f.	4,527	4,685	5,053	7.9	1.6
12	Business travel services	3,294	3,864	4,189	8.4	10.2
13	Professional services	3,128	3,591	4,110	14.5	2.4
14	Aluminium	4,693	4,141	3,593	-13.2	-7.4
15	Technical & other business services	3,718	3,411	3,468	1.7	0.0
16	Medicaments (incl veterinary)	3,359	3,622	3,416	-5.7	-0.8
17	Copper	3,978	3,686	3,110	-15.6	3.0
18	Refined petroleum	2,665	3,186	2,927	-8.1	-1.5
19	Cotton	1,367	2,737	2,696	-1.5	51.2
20	Meat (excl beef), f.c.f.	2,325	2,359	2,522	6.9	3.6
21	Wool & other animal hair (incl tops)	2,623	2,693	2,473	-8.2	3.2
22	Passenger transport services (c)	2,800	2,620	2,332	-11.0	-9.1
23	Oil-seeds & oleaginous fruits, soft	961	1,544	2,321	50.3	44.0
24	Other transport services (d)	2,253	2,278	2,305	1.2	0.9
25	Alcoholic beverages	2,122	2,028	2,000	-1.4	-6.9
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>						
<b>Analytical industry series</b>						
	Education (e)	16,093	15,253	15,035	-1.4	1.7
	Tourism (f)	25,017	25,547	nya	..	

(a) Goods trade are on a recorded trade basis, Services trade are on a balance of payments basis. (b) Balance of payments basis.  
(c) Includes *Related agency fees & commissions*. (d) *Other transport services* exports covers a range of services provided in Australian airports and ports, including *Cargo & baggage handling services, Agents fees associated with freight transportation and Airport & port charges*. (e) *Education services* includes *Education related travel services, Royalties on education services and Other education services*. (f) *Tourism* is based on the ABS Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) and is only available on a financial year basis.

nya - not yet available

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database and ABS catalogue 5368.0 (September 2013).



## AUSTRALIA'S TOP 25 GOODS & SERVICES EXPORTS (a) (A\$ million)

Rank	Commodity	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	% share 2016-17	% growth	
						2015-16 to 2016-17	5 year trend
<b>Total (b)</b>		<b>324,491</b>	<b>319,524</b>	<b>373,240</b>		<b>16.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>
1	Iron ores & concentrates	54,519	47,799	62,799	16.8	31.4	-2.4
2	Coal	37,882	34,541	54,267	14.5	57.1	0.7
3	Education-related travel services (c)	21,258	24,145	28,035	7.5	16.1	11.0
4	Natural gas	16,895	16,576	22,299	6.0	34.5	10.8
5	Personal travel (excl education) services	18,238	20,669	21,651	5.8	4.8	9.3
6	Gold	13,506	16,585	18,979	5.1	14.4	3.4
7	Aluminium ores & conc (incl alumina)	7,106	6,790	7,529	2.0	10.9	7.5
8	Beef, f.c.f.	9,040	8,495	7,115	1.9	-16.2	12.1
9	Wheat	5,528	5,096	6,073	1.6	19.2	-3.3
10	Crude petroleum	8,154	5,184	5,150	1.4	-0.7	-15.8
11	Professional services	4,967	5,018	4,840	1.3	-3.5	4.1
12	Copper ores & concentrates	5,242	4,664	4,551	1.2	-2.4	-3.5
13	Technical & other business services	3,369	3,805	4,194	1.1	10.2	1.9
14	Financial services	3,960	3,907	3,994	1.1	2.2	12.2
15	Meat (excl beef), f.c.f.	3,840	3,649	3,832	1.0	5.0	11.1
16	Telecom, computer & information services	2,890	3,243	3,282	0.9	1.2	10.7
17	Vegetables, f.c.f.	1,236	1,936	3,270	0.9	68.9	22.5
18	Aluminium	4,159	3,420	3,268	0.9	-4.4	-3.5
19	Wool & other animal hair (incl tops)	2,782	2,872	3,263	0.9	13.6	4.5
20	Copper	3,370	3,567	3,128	0.8	-12.3	-1.4
21	Business travel services	3,035	2,916	3,059	0.8	4.9	1.7
22	Other transport services (e)	2,657	2,694	2,884	0.8	7.1	5.2
23	Passenger transport services (f)	2,442	2,742	2,833	0.8	3.3	2.4
24	Alcoholic beverages	2,186	2,389	2,612	0.7	9.3	5.5
25	Other ores & concentrates (d)	4,845	3,455	2,594	0.7	-24.9	-8.4
<b>Memorandum items</b>							
	Education (g)	21,863	24,655	28,556	7.7	15.8	10.9
	Tourism Satellite Account	30,810	34,222	nya	..	..	..

(a) Goods trade is on a recorded trade basis, Services trade is on a balance of payments basis. (b) Balance of payments basis. (c) Includes student expenditure on tuition fees and living expenses. (d) Other ores & concentrates - mainly of Lead, Zinc and Manganese ores & concentrates.

(e) Other transport services exports covers a range of services provided in Australian airports and ports, including Cargo & baggage handling services, Agents fees associated with freight transportation and Airport & port charges. (f) Includes Related agency fees & commissions. (g) Education includes Education-related travel services, Royalties on education services and Other education services.

nya = not yet available.

nes - not elsewhere specified.

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database and ABS catalogues 5368.0 (September 2017) & 5429.0.



## AUSTRALIA'S TOP 25 EXPORTS, GOODS & SERVICES (a) (A\$ million)

Rank	Commodity	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	% share 2018-19	% growth	
						2017-18 to 2018-19	5 year trend
<b>Total (b)</b>		<b>373,769</b>	<b>403,360</b>	<b>470,170</b>		<b>16.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>
1	Iron ores & concentrates	62,617	61,392	77,189	16.4	25.7	2.3
2	Coal (c)	54,236	60,379	69,592	14.8	15.3	14.1
3	Natural gas	22,308	30,907	49,731	10.6	60.9	23.7
4	Education-related travel services (d)	28,093	32,602	37,556	8.0	15.2	15.2
5	Personal travel (excl education) services	21,628	21,332	22,450	4.8	5.2	5.8
6	Gold	18,979	19,293	18,867	4.0	-2.2	8.8
7	Aluminium ores & conc (incl alumina)	7,529	9,448	11,358	2.4	20.2	12.4
8	Beef, f.c.f.	7,115	7,963	9,476	2.0	19.0	4.0
9	Crude petroleum	5,150	6,506	8,491	1.8	30.5	-4.8
10	Copper ores & concentrates	4,577	5,700	5,936	1.3	4.1	2.5
11	Professional services	4,943	5,196	5,626	1.2	8.3	3.5
12	Meat (excl beef), f.c.f.	3,831	4,526	5,152	1.1	13.8	8.0
13	Telecom, computer & information services	3,332	4,219	5,081	1.1	20.4	14.6
14	Financial services	3,965	4,569	4,933	1.0	8.0	7.4
15	Technical & other business services	4,511	4,436	4,662	1.0	5.1	5.9
16	Aluminium	3,272	4,096	4,251	0.9	3.8	1.2
17	Copper	3,128	2,891	3,968	0.8	37.3	-0.7
18	Wool & other animal hair (incl tops)	3,263	3,985	3,815	0.8	-4.2	10.2
19	Wheat	6,073	4,652	3,657	0.8	-21.4	-7.9
20	Other ores & concentrates	2,602	3,140	3,554	0.8	13.2	-7.4
21	Alcoholic beverages	2,612	3,111	3,374	0.7	8.5	11.2
22	Passenger transport services (e)	2,833	2,936	3,075	0.7	4.7	5.4
23	Refined petroleum	2,347	2,626	3,005	0.6	14.4	1.9
24	Pharm products (excl medicaments)	1,317	1,583	2,953	0.6	86.6	41.3
25	Edible products & preparations, nes	2,524	3,007	2,943	0.6	-2.1	27.1

### Memorandum items

Education (g)	28,604	33,197	nya	..	..	..
Tourism Satellite Account	34,561	37,200	nya	..	..	..

(a) Goods trade is on a recorded trade basis, Services trade is on a balance of payments basis. (b) Balance of payments (BOP) basis. (c) Includes BOP adjustment. (d) Includes student expenditure on tuition fees and living expenses. (e) Mainly of Lead, Zinc and Manganese ores & concentrates. (f) Includes Related agency fees & commissions. (g) Includes Education-related travel services, Royalties on education services and Other education services.

nya = not yet available.

f.c.f. - fresh, chilled, frozen

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database and ABS catalogues 5368.0 (Sep 2019) & 5429.0.

Last updated 19/11/2019



## AUSTRALIA'S TOP 25 EXPORTS, GOODS & SERVICES (a) (A\$ million)

Rank	Commodity	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	% share 2021-22	% growth	
						2020-21 to 2021-22	5 year trend
	<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>475,237</b>	<b>459,256</b>	<b>595,049</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>
1	Iron ore & concentrates	102,864	152,975	132,489	22.3	-13.4	21.3
2	Coal	54,620	39,196	113,846	19.1	190.5	6.4
3	Natural gas	47,525	30,477	70,571	11.9	131.6	17.6
4	Gold	24,394	26,105	23,202	3.9	-11.1	6.4
5	Education-related travel services (c)	37,338	27,554	20,776	3.5	-24.6	-5.6
6	Crude petroleum	8,568	7,001	13,598	2.3	94.2	15.6
7	Wheat	3,847	6,805	11,336	1.9	66.6	13.1
8	Aluminium ores & conc (incl alumina)	8,875	8,155	9,982	1.7	22.4	2.1
9	Beef, f.c.f.	11,258	8,370	9,920	1.7	18.5	5.8
10	Copper ores & concentrates	6,854	7,328	7,759	1.3	5.9	10.6
11	Telecom, computer & information services	5,320	5,387	6,642	1.1	23.3	13.6
12	Professional services	6,172	5,551	6,633	1.1	19.5	4.7
13	Meat (excl beef), f.c.f.	5,520	4,842	6,142	1.0	26.8	7.8
14	Personal cultural & recreational services (c)	3,277	6,152	6,137	1.0	-0.2	52.9
15	Oil-seeds & oleaginous fruits, soft	1,188	2,214	5,965	1.0	169.5	19.9
16	Aluminium	3,761	3,828	5,817	1.0	51.9	7.6
17	Technical & other business services	5,178	4,488	5,222	0.9	16.4	2.5
18	Crude minerals, nes	1,237	996	5,124	0.9	414.6	24.8
19	Other ores & concentrates (d)	3,678	3,539	4,749	0.8	34.2	10.2
20	Copper	3,433	4,233	4,498	0.8	6.2	8.4
21	Financial services	5,085	4,178	3,929	0.7	-6.0	-0.3
22	Refined petroleum	2,411	2,498	3,898	0.7	56.0	6.4
23	Wool & other animal hair (incl tops)	2,516	2,437	3,274	0.6	34.3	-5.2
24	Barley	1,028	1,910	2,977	0.5	55.9	3.9
25	Gold coin & legal tender coin	1,035	2,253	2,570	0.4	14.1	31.3
<b>Memorandum items</b>							
	Education (e)	39,704	32,846	25,905	4.4	-21.1	-1.4
	Tourism Satellite Account	29,428	791	6,697	1.1	746.6	-43.8

(a) Goods trade is on a recorded trade basis, Services trade is on a balance of payments basis. (b) Balance of payments basis. (c) Effective January 2020, there has been a compositional shift in where some student fees are located in services data due to COVID-19; students have continued to study and pay fees to Australian universities, but as they are no longer located in Australia due to travel interruptions, this spend is now captured under *Personal, cultural & recreational services*. (d) Mainly of Lead, Zinc and Manganese ores & concentrates. (e) *Education* includes *Education-related travel services*, *Royalties on education services* and *Other education services*.

f.c.f - fresh, chilled or frozen. nya - not yet available. .. - not meaningful.

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database and ABS catalogues 5368.0 (Dec-2022), 5302.0 (Dec qtr 2022) & 5249.0.

Last updated 06/03/2023