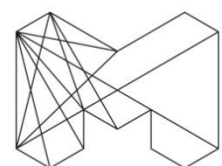


A great place to study

International Student Strategy Draft

2013 – 17



CITY OF MELBOURNE



Message from the City of Melbourne

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1. Introduction

The City of Melbourne International Student Strategy 2013–17 recognises the unique contribution international students make to the city. It describes the beneficial impacts on our retail, employment, housing and knowledge sectors, sets a direction to grow our vision of Melbourne as the global international student destination of choice and recognises the key challenges that international students may face as they live and study in Melbourne.

The Strategy builds on and integrates Council’s work across the organisation and has been developed in line with the *City of Melbourne’s Council Plan 2013–17* focussing on goals that build ‘A City for People’, ‘A Knowledge City’ and a ‘Prosperous City.’

By achieving these goals we will maintain our reputation as one of the world’s most welcoming, cosmopolitan and liveable cities and continue to position Melbourne as the knowledge capital of Australia and a global knowledge city. We will work to attract and retain international students beyond their student years ensuring they build life-long connections with our city.

The strategy was developed over a twelve month period by gathering data, analysing research, benchmarking the work of federal, state and local governments and evaluating a broad range of external and internal projects and programs. Extensive consultation has occurred with our key stakeholders including the international student education sector, higher education, TAFE and private providers. We have engaged with student bodies and associations, academics, experts and students studying at a wide range of universities and colleges.

Our findings indicate there are five key areas where the City of Melbourne can take a strong leadership role:

- research and consultation
- collaborative practice and partnering
- knowledge and innovation
- celebrating diversity
- promoting destination of choice

Work across these areas will form the basis of a detailed action plan for the next three years.

We want to make sure students have every opportunity to excel in their education and employment, enjoy Melbourne and develop life-long connections with our city. In short, we want to continue to make Melbourne a great place to study.

Our Vision

‘To ensure Melbourne is the global destination of choice by celebrating students’ contribution to our city and providing outstanding opportunities in education, employment and life’.

2. City of Melbourne overview

The City of Melbourne has played an active leadership role within the international education sector in Australia for the past decade and has an ongoing commitment to achieve the best possible outcomes for international students. This strategy acknowledges that the work of the City of Melbourne sits as part of the broader federal, state and local government policy arena.

A Knowledge City

Knowledge Melbourne is part of the commitment through the *Council Plan 2013–17* to deliver Goal 4: A Knowledge City. The City of Melbourne's Knowledge Melbourne program supports the principles and objectives outlined in the International Student Strategy.

Knowledge Melbourne has been developed to enhance and promote Melbourne's knowledge sector. It connects education, research, world-leading knowledge based institutions, businesses and a knowledge culture extended by a dynamic online community. The international education industry contributes to Melbourne's knowledge sector by recruiting highly skilled academics and researchers from across the globe drawn by our reputation as an international centre of excellence for tertiary education and our status as the world's most livable city.

The broad knowledge sector in Melbourne comprises finance and business services, information and communication technology, life sciences and health, creative, design and biomedical industries, higher education and advanced manufacturing.

Melbourne's international student population

On any one day in Melbourne there are more than 30,000 international students studying at a variety of educational institutions with approximately 50 per cent residing in the municipality. The majority of these students are under 25 years, tech savvy, living alone and studying either postgraduate or undergraduate degrees.

The number of international students studying in tertiary courses in Melbourne grew from 17,000 students in 2002 to 29,000 students in 2011, with students predominately coming from China (31 per cent), Malaysia (12 per cent) and India (8 per cent).

The rapid growth of the international student population over the past decade has come with opportunities and challenges for all levels of government. Each level of government has developed a range of different programs to respond to the diverse and growing needs of this sector.

Student profile

International students study in universities, TAFE and vocational training providers, English language colleges, and primary and secondary schools. They are student visa-holders, full-time or part-time students, students who have recently graduated and are looking for work experience opportunities, students with dependent children, spouses or relatives, temporary residents on tourist, holiday or business visas who are studying in a Victorian education institution. They are students on exchange programs, study abroad programs or professional visitors on study tour programs.

Some international students are in Australia for short periods of time (as little as four weeks) and many others reside in Australia throughout their secondary and tertiary education. Consequently the English language proficiency amongst international students varies greatly as does their familiarity with student rights and responsibilities both within their institutions and within the wider community.

In the City of Melbourne international students have a broad choice regarding where and what to study. The municipality is home to eight universities and over 200 educational institutions.

Culture and diversity

International students have reported in the *City of Melbourne International student 2010 survey* that the most enjoyable aspects of living in Melbourne are:

- culturally diverse food and entertainment
- quality of education
- the cultural diversity of the community

International students are a diverse population, representing many nationalities that bring a rich cultural vibrancy to our city. International students in Melbourne collectively speak over 100 different languages other than English.

International students represent all age groups and some have dependants and family accompanying them. Many have family visit while they are here. The majority are here alone with neither friends nor family from their home country.

International students bring many cultural benefits to our city including cross-cultural interaction, increased exposure and exchange of ideas, and improved intercultural understanding. Their presence here helps build linkages between their country of origin and Australia. From the perspective of education institutions providing tuition to international students, the benefits include the internationalisation of research and course curriculum and the globalisation of education including, the expansion of online reach and offshore operations.

Contributing to our economy

Australia attracts the largest number of international students per capita in the world. In 2011 there were over 400,000 international students in Australia, with 125,000 enrolled in Victorian education institutions.

Deloitte Access Economics in their 2013 study (*The Economic Contribution of International Students*) estimated that international students in 2011 contributed in the vicinity of \$4 billion to the Victorian economy and created employment of 38,063 full time employees (FTE).

According to the *State of Australian Cities 2013 Report*, international education has become Australia's fourth largest export industry. In 2011, 60,642 international students enrolled in the higher education or vocational education and training sectors were living in Melbourne, making it the most popular destination for international students in Australia. It is estimated that international students in higher education, vocational and English language courses spend an average of \$42,531 per annum while studying in Australia.

Employment in the higher education sector has also grown substantially in Melbourne and it is the seventh largest employing sector in the City and sixth largest in Victoria. Employees in higher education make up 8 per cent of the Victorian labour force and 6 per cent of the labour force in the City of Melbourne. In 2010 higher education providers employed 23,555 people up from 15,443 in 2002. One of the key drivers of this increase in employment is the demand to provide education to international students.

International students and their visiting family and friends make an important contribution to our retail and hospitality sector. Council's *Retail and Hospitality Strategy 2013–17* indicates that there has been an 18 per cent increase in the retail sector and the industry contributes 52,000 jobs across 5,500 outlets. More than 33,000 people are also employed in Melbourne's hospitality sector. Many international students find part time employment in these industries and workplaces.

The *Retail and Hospitality Strategy 2013–17* focusses on innovative, diverse and creative objectives to position Melbourne as a globally sought after retail and hospitality destination. The international student population as a whole helps drive the retail and hospitality sectors through their demand for goods and services. These include culturally diverse food, information technology requirements such as phones, computers and games, entertainment, holidays and face to face and online shopping.

Student hospitality and retail needs will be considered as a key part of City of Melbourne's research that will guide identification of new hospitality and retail offers.

Student living costs

The experiences of international students are varied. *Australian Education International – 2012 International student survey* results confirmed that 87 per cent of international students were satisfied or very satisfied with their living and learning experience in Australia.

Despite this positive response, the *Australian Education International 2012* research indicates divergent views on the experiences of international students. *City of Melbourne International Student Survey(s)* conducted on three occasions over the past eight years highlight student concern regarding the cost of public transport, the struggle to find work, the lack of affordable housing and difficulty meeting daily living costs. They are vulnerable to insecurity or exploitation and/or having their course enrolment cancelled through not meeting academic progress or attendance requirements.

The financial capacity of international students choosing to live and study in Australia varies greatly. Recent findings in the *Universities Australia 2013* (UA) survey of student finances provided a detailed account of international students' income and expenditure as well as their attitude to their financial situation. International students reported that they: go regularly without food (13 per cent); worry about money (50 per cent) and find the cost of living higher than they expected (30 per cent). However, less than ten per cent would consider deferring their studies because of their financial situation.

Over half of the international students in Australia (60 per cent) live on less than \$20,000 per year and one quarter have an annual income of less than \$10,000. Two thirds rely on paid employment and reportedly work an average of 15 hours per week to supplement a large proportion of their income. Many students report that they found it difficult to find work and 30 per cent are concerned that paid work impacts negatively on their studies. The table below depicts the average overall income and expenditure costs of undergraduate students over a 12 month period.

Table 1: Undergraduate international student income and expenditure

Category	Cost \$
Food and household supplies	4214
Education related expenses	3286
Transport	2304
Entertainment	2010
Utilities	655
Other expenses	1003
Rent	7860
Total	21332
Average undergraduate income	19713

Source: *Universities Australia 2013*

In addition to the costs in Table 1 international students pay tuition fees of between \$10,000 and \$35,000 per year.

There are differences between domestic and international student levels of expenditure and income. International students on average have slightly higher income than local students but higher education related expenses and higher levels of debt.

Public transport

The *City of Melbourne International Student Survey 2010* found that 68 per cent of international students reported public transport cost as the aspect of living most in need of improvement. The *Universities Australia 2013* report stated that '*transport costs (both general transport and transport to and from classes) take up about ten per cent of international students' total expenditure*' and over half have trouble meeting transport costs in attending study commitments.

Victoria is the only state that does not provide any type of reduced or concession fare for international students on public transport. Research and reports published by the education sector, state and federal governments indicate that the lack of travel concession to international students can affect:

- location, standard, suitability and affordability of accommodation

- general safety
- overall cost of living
- engagement and participation in the community
- likelihood of recommending Melbourne as a place to study
- key sectors, such as tourism, housing, education and services
- choice in alternate study options.

The City of Melbourne supports the introduction of transport concession fares for all international students in Victoria as it would vastly improve their overall experience of education, social connectedness, employment and living in Melbourne.

International student housing

In 2010, 42 per cent of the City of Melbourne's residential population were students, 50 per cent of whom were international students. A high proportion, (35 per cent) of our population is between 25 and 29 years of age. Students and young people are highly transitory. In 2011 only 61 per cent of our residential population had lived in the city five years earlier, compared with 80 per cent of the population in other LGAs.

The City of Melbourne's residential population is forecast to grow to 180,000 by 2031, requiring in the order of 42,000 new homes in the municipality. The City of Melbourne plays a major role in facilitating efficient and affordable housing markets by making available land to meet this demand. This is currently being achieved through the Melbourne planning system, including for current and new urban renewal areas, such as the Hoddle Grid, Southbank, Docklands, City North and Arden-Macaulay.

The majority of international students live in off-campus accommodation. The private rental market is the preferred choice of housing and this includes purpose built student apartments and student accommodation facilities.

The number of purpose built student apartments has increased significantly since 2002, from 2050 dwellings to 4785 dwellings in 2010 - an increase of 133 per cent making this the fastest growing residential dwellings category in the municipality. International students living in private rental are experiencing high levels of housing stress due to the increasing cost of rent.

City of Melbourne research *Rooming House Residents in the City of Melbourne Needs and Characteristics 2011* found that 30 per cent of those residents surveyed were international students on low incomes. Rooming houses do not offer permanent or secure accommodation.

In the *International Higher Education Student Satisfaction with Accommodation in Australia survey (AEI 2013)* international students were asked about their satisfaction with accommodation in Australia. In Victoria 51 per cent of students were not satisfied with the cost of their accommodation. Such a level of dissatisfaction with cost may reflect the comparatively high cost of accommodation, or misunderstanding by students prior to arrival in Victoria of accommodation costs.

However, the survey findings demonstrated that over 86 per cent of students in Victoria were satisfied with the availability of suitable accommodation and 93 per cent of students in Victoria responded that their accommodation was safe. Students living in off-campus accommodation, including private rental housing were the least satisfied with the quality of

their accommodation and students living in homestay, with host families were the most satisfied.

There is a positive correlation between the satisfaction with accommodation and the satisfaction with learning experiences. Students who are satisfied with their accommodation are more likely to be satisfied (and successful) with their education outcomes.

Challenges in sustaining international education

Whilst the international education industry has been extremely successful in delivering economic benefits in Australia and Victoria, international student enrolments have eased since their peak in 2009. (*Australia's International Education Industry Analysis of Strategic Trends 2013*)

Some of the challenges ahead for this industry are the relatively high costs of providing education in Australia, competition from other provider countries, growing online courses, effects of the global financial crisis and the fluctuating Australian dollar. However, India and China (currently the leading source countries of international students for Australia) are likely to continue to drive demand for international education over the coming decade and beyond. The NSW Government *International Education and Research Taskforce 2012* found that global demand for international higher education is forecast to grow from 2.2 million in 2005 to 3.7 million in 2025 with China, India, Malaysia and Indonesia predicted to account for 60 per cent of this growth.

According to the *BCG Analysis of International Education in Australia 2013*, education providers will need to address these trends by strategically managing affordability, maintaining quality standards, and continuously reassessing the quality of Australian credentials in the global marketplace. They will also need to target new sources of student demand and continue to innovate in the delivery of competitive educational outcomes.

The challenges for the City of Melbourne will involve effectively supporting the sector to provide programs that enhance the international student educational and career experience. By supporting this sector to attract and retain highly skilled, culturally diverse and talented students, Melbourne will benefit through their contribution to our workplaces, community and long term international connections and business linkages.

The City of Melbourne and the international education sector also face challenges to support the social inclusion of international students with their Australian counterparts. Students have expressed their dissatisfaction with their ability to meet Australian students and make Australian friends indicating a lack of opportunities for international students to interact with the local community.

3. Our achievements

The City of Melbourne has responded to the growth in international student numbers over the past decade by developing award-winning programs and strong relationships with student groups and stakeholders in the international education sector.

This strategy will ensure that these unique initiatives and points of difference with other capital cities will continue. It is our intention to continue to develop innovative, responsive and effective initiatives.

City to city relationships

Melbourne has greatly benefited from the formal relationships forged in cities in China, Japan and India. These relationships have worked to increase export and investment opportunities which include the international education sector.

Government leadership training program

The Government Leadership Training Program evolved out of a partnership between the City of Melbourne and Tianjin in China, one of our sister cities. The program brings together the City of Melbourne, Tianjin Municipal People's Government and RMIT University. Each year 20 senior business and government leaders from Tianjin visit Melbourne for a 12 week period to undertake a business management course at RMIT University. During the 12 years that the training program has been conducted, more than 250 Tianjin executives have completed the program and taken their places among the city's senior leaders. Melbourne has experienced significant economic and cultural benefits arising from the strong international relationships, which have developed since the establishment of the program.

Welcome desk

In 2009, the City of Melbourne successfully piloted a Welcome desk at Melbourne Airport to greet and assist international students upon arrival. Since inception the Welcome desk has operated twice each year and has assisted approximately 2500 students at the airport and has provided 15,000 welcome information kits to students on arrival each year. In total, approximately 60,000 students have received information or assistance. This partnership program is jointly funded by City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government Department of State Development, Business and Innovation, Melbourne Airport, community organisations and educational institutions from the international education sector.

Lord Mayor's Student Welcome

The Lord Mayor's Student Welcome events are held in March and August each year to welcome and celebrate the contribution of our diverse international student community to the life of the city. Young people design and produce the events which provide interactive workshops, activities and performances and opportunities to meet and connect with other students.

EDGE student leadership program

The EDGE leadership program was piloted in 2012 with 20 student participants. This leadership program was designed to enhance the experience of international students

studying in our municipality. The program provided participants opportunity to identify personal goals, develop an understanding of Australian workplace culture and cultural diversity, and assisted participants to develop global resumes to enhance their employment opportunities in Melbourne and overseas. A revised leadership program will be run in 2014.

International Student Guide

In 2013 our information material to assist international students to know and understand life in Melbourne was upgraded by the production of the Insider International Student Guide booklet and APP. Some 40,000 copies of the guide have been distributed to students and education providers. The guide includes information on food, shopping, health services, entertainment and transport.

International Student City Ambassador program

Since 2009 international students have participated each year in the Tourism Melbourne City Ambassador volunteer program. The role of these volunteers is to provide assistance to tourists and visitors in the Melbourne CBD. Participants in this program have gained valuable work experience and have broadened their knowledge of and connection to Melbourne.

The Couch-International Student Drop-In Centre

The Couch-International Student Drop-In Centre was launched in 2009 and is run in partnership with the Salvation Army. The centre provides a safe welcoming space for international students to study, meet other students and share activities.

The Multicultural Hub

The Multicultural Hub is owned by the City of Melbourne, and provides a central place in Melbourne for the city's culturally diverse communities to meet, interact, collaborate and create opportunities for the sharing of knowledge. The City of Melbourne hosts a variety of international student workshops and programs at the Multicultural Hub and promotes and supports the use of the facilities and services for international student programs run by student and community organisations.

Volunteering

International students have been invited and encouraged to volunteer in City of Melbourne events and programs including the Lord Mayor's Student Welcome and the Student Welcome Desk at Melbourne Airport. Approximately 500 students over the past five years have volunteered in roles that have enabled them to develop skills in the planning and delivery of programs. This volunteering experience has provided valuable workplace experience and has assisted students to make new friends

4. Strategy for international students

This strategy will involve a proactive collaboration across our own organisation, Melbourne's educational institutions, industry, employment services and specialist welfare groups.

The goals and actions below aim to enhance the student experience in Melbourne. They detail a range of initiatives, some of which are new, while others develop our existing achievements.

Research and consultation

Goal 1

We will continue to identify issues, challenges and opportunities for international students.

Actions:

- Conduct and contribute to research that will inform and influence government and other sectors on policy and program development.
- Provide international students and the education sector opportunities to report on the impacts of denial of transport concessions and advocate to the Victorian government to introduce transport concession for all international students in Victoria in line with local students.
- Host and participate in forums for the education sector to engage with local governments in Melbourne to discuss, workshop and inform councils of gaps and opportunities to participate in collaborative programs relating to international student well-being, housing access and affordability and employment opportunities.
- Create a clearinghouse of international student programs, research and resources to inform Council's work with international students.
- Ensure the needs of international students are embedded in key internal strategies and action plans such as the City of Melbourne Housing Strategy.
- Explore opportunities to partner with other local governments, education providers and Victorian government to develop awareness of the current use of rooming houses by international students in order to encourage international students to make informed choices about accommodation.
- Research and identify ways that international students can connect with other students, families and communities to reduce social isolation and enhance connections and inclusion.
- Explore additional ways of improving housing affordability and quality, including that of purpose built student housing, through the City of Melbourne Housing Strategy.

Collaborative practice and partnering

Goal 2

We will enhance student well-being through a coordinated response across communities, sectors and government.

Actions:

- Provide opportunity for key stakeholders, education providers and peak organisations to engage with Council about programs for international students – to facilitate collaboration and advice on new programs, program outcomes and improvement.
- Provide opportunities for international students to engage in decision-making about programs at Council for international students.
- Host a workshop for service providers and education institution staff to explore mental health issues affecting international students in partnership with ISANA International Education Association and the Victorian government.
- Continue to promote and support community education focussing on problem gambling.
- Provide education providers, youth services, community organisations and relevant health organisations up to date information and advice on international student issues brought to the attention of the City of Melbourne through research, networks and reports.
- Work with welfare service providers, government and education providers on collaborative programs to enhance the wellbeing of international students.
- Explore opportunities with education providers for Council to continue to provide internships and work experience opportunities to international students.
- Collaborate with international student organisations, community organisations and government bodies to provide opportunities to workshop employment and employability programs to international students including job-seeking, resume writing, tax and visa information.

Knowledge and innovation

Goal 3

We will support programs and pathways that welcome, connect and encourage international students to lead and excel in education, employment and community.

Actions

- Promote Melbourne as the leading destination of choice for international students.

- Enhance opportunities to attract investment in research and global partnerships in order to strengthen Melbourne's growth as an innovation hub.
- Utilise Melbourne's knowledge sector to explore the need to pilot a virtual careers fair, focussing on key source countries and regions where there are growing graduate employment opportunities.
- Engage international students for a broad range of volunteer programs within the City of Melbourne providing opportunities for valuable work experience and engagement with Council and community.
- Provide international students opportunities to develop employment, networking, and cross cultural communication skills through an international student leadership program.
- Continue to welcome and inform newly arrived international students to Melbourne through our Student Welcome Desk, Lord Mayor's Student Welcome events and Insider International Student Guide.
- Through our libraries, recreational centres, culturally diverse services and arts and culture programs provide international students with interest based opportunities to engage with local community and develop connections with residents.
- Run programs for international students in partnership with the Couch, Multicultural Hub and community organisations focussing on social inclusion, problem gambling, vulnerability, and cross-cultural communication in order to improve international students' social, cultural, physical and economic security.

Celebrate diversity

Goal 4

We will acknowledge, respect and celebrate the diverse cultural, economic and social contribution of international students to the life of the city.

Actions:

- Host Lord Mayor's Student Welcome events involving community organisations to celebrate the diversity of the student population in Melbourne.
- Through our Retail and Hospitality Strategy 2013–2017 support the retail sector to respond and cater for the diverse needs of international students.
- Provide support for innovative international student programs through City of Melbourne community grants.
- Engage international students in programs that specifically reflect their cultural heritage and provide opportunities for them to engage in cultures other than their own.

Promote destination of choice

Goal 5

We will continuously improve the perceptions of Melbourne as the unparalleled Australian destination of choice.

Actions:

- Through the City of Melbourne's International Engagement Framework continue to foster relationships with industry, education providers and overseas governments to support leadership and training programs.
- The Knowledge Melbourne program promotes Melbourne as a knowledge city and high quality education destination and will continue to do so.
- The City of Melbourne's International Engagement Framework will continue to identify international education as a key sector in establishing and growing Melbourne's global business and industry opportunities.
- Support international student programs and alumni events that promote and develop life-long associations with the City of Melbourne.

Our accountability

The City of Melbourne will monitor and review our strategy, goals and actions. We will define our measures, targets and responsibilities. Outcomes and achievements will be reported annually.

APPENDIX 1

The Strategy was developed following:

- the release of a discussion paper containing a detailed analysis of current City of Melbourne work with international students and identified and analysed data and statistics, issues, gaps and opportunities.
- a concise literature review of existing federal, state and local government policies and frameworks, in addition to international education industry and education sector context.
- targeted community consultation involving both internal and external stakeholders.

Further consultation will be conducted following the release of the draft strategy.

The discussion paper provided information, data, statistics, primary research in international education and an outline of similar programs and policy on a national and international level. The City of Melbourne's current role in supporting, informing and engaging with international students was detailed in the discussion paper.

In developing the draft strategy, the following documents and programs have been considered:

- City of Melbourne publications: Council Plan 2013–2017; Young People's Policy 2010–2013; International Engagement Framework; Cultural Diversity Framework; Knowledge Melbourne Key Strategic Activity Project Plan; Strategy for a Safer City; Pathways – City of Melbourne Homelessness Strategy 2011–13; Future Living: A discussion paper identifying issues and options for housing in our community, May 2013; Melbourne Retail and Hospitality Strategy 2013–2017, City of Melbourne Knowledge Sector Study, February 2013.
- Related issues and opportunities to assist international students in Melbourne identified in the City Safety Plan and Homelessness Strategy.
- Victorian local government programs: Moreland City Council research – International Students in the City of Moreland; and Darebin City Council action plan, Monash City Council community campus summit on international students and City of Stonnington programs.
- State government programs, reports and initiatives in Victoria and New South Wales
- NSW Government Industry Action Plan; NSW International Education and Research Sept. 2012
- Australian capital city local governments: City of Sydney's new programs and initiatives for international students; City of Brisbane action plan and project exploration; City of Adelaide programs supporting students through Study Adelaide.
- Federal government publications and projects: Council of Australian Governments International Students Strategy for Australia; Australia – Educating Globally – Advice from the International Education Advisory Council, February 2013; Australia in the Asian Century White Paper 2012; International Graduate Outcomes and Employer Perceptions, 2010; International Higher Education Student Satisfaction with Accommodation in Australia, Australian Education International, June 2013; International Student Survey Overview report, Australian Education International, April 2013; State of Australian Capital Cities Report 2013.
- International initiatives and activities: Toronto, London and Boston, UK government strategy – International Education: Global Growth and Prosperity.
- Universities Australia report: University Student Finances in 2012, July 2013; Australia's International Education Industry Analysis of Strategic Trends 2013 Boston Consulting Group.

Also relevant are research reports commissioned by the City of Melbourne to investigate the nature of the international students' experiences in the city. These include: City of Melbourne International Student Surveys – 2006, 2008 and 2010, International Students at Risk in the City of Melbourne: the extent and nature of their hardship, December 2011; Rooming House Residents in the City of Melbourne Needs and Characteristics, February, 2012; and City of Melbourne/State Library of Victoria: International Student Library Needs, 2011. Data and statistics used in this report have also been obtained from City of Melbourne CLUE research data.

APPENDIX 2

The City of Melbourne currently engages with international students through a broad range of services, programs and strategies:

CITY OF MELBOURNE'S CURRENT ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	
<p>Lord Mayor's Student Welcome</p> <p>Student welcome desk</p> <p>The Couch</p> <p>Melbourne Youth Services Forum</p> <p>Youth programs and policy</p> <p>Rooming house information</p> <p>Football programs</p> <p>Dance groups</p> <p>Information sessions</p> <p>Intercom3 committee</p> <p>Youth Street teams</p> <p>Perceptions of safety research</p> <p>Strategy for a Safer City</p> <p>Prevention of Violence against Women Strategy</p> <p>24 hour city policy</p> <p>Cycling program</p> <p>Transport safety</p> <p>Drug and alcohol programs</p> <p>Collaboration and connections with the education and business sectors in main source countries – India and China in particular</p> <p>International engagement framework</p> <p>Connection and collaboration with state and federal government departments</p> <p>City of Melbourne Tourism plan</p> <p>City ambassador volunteer program</p> <p>Attending free entertainment and events in the city</p> <p>Volunteer programs at Melbourne's premier events</p> <p>Involvement in dedicated programs and connections with external sporting associations</p> <p>International students as members and users of recreation facilities</p> <p>Artplay and Signal spaces – opportunities for culturally diverse arts programs</p>	<p>Student housing policy</p> <p>Future living discussion paper</p> <p>Housing strategy development</p> <p>Food policy – incorporating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to culturally appropriate food • Access to affordable and nutritious food • Cultural precincts and restaurants • Employment in restaurants and fast food outlets <p>Rooming house regulation</p> <p>Retail and hospitality strategy</p> <p>Cultural precincts</p> <p>Retail outlets</p> <p>Culturally diverse supermarkets</p> <p>Student and education profile document including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measuring the changing demographic of students • Tracking numbers of students • Accessing student enrolment data <p>International student survey and targeted research</p> <p>Knowledge Melbourne initiatives</p> <p>Events and Community Engagement</p> <p>Multicultural Hub programs and spaces</p> <p>Opportunity to participate in cultural experiences and express cultural background</p> <p>Research into needs of international students in libraries</p> <p>Library strategy</p> <p>Library memberships, specific programs and engagement within libraries</p> <p>Use of public spaces</p> <p>Education programs</p>