

ISANA ACCOMMODATION SYMPOSIUM

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MANAGER STUDENT INITIATIVES

STUDY MELBOURNE



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- The broader state context
- Policy developments
- Support for accommodation from Study Melbourne
- An opportunity: the new International Student Welfare Grants



VICTORIA: THE BROADER STATE CONTEXT

+160,000 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDYING IN VICTORIA ANNUALLY

WORLD'S
FRIENDLIEST
CITY



WORLD'S MOST
LIVEABLE
CITY



RANKED 2ND
WORLD'S BEST
STUDENT
EXPERIENCE CITIES

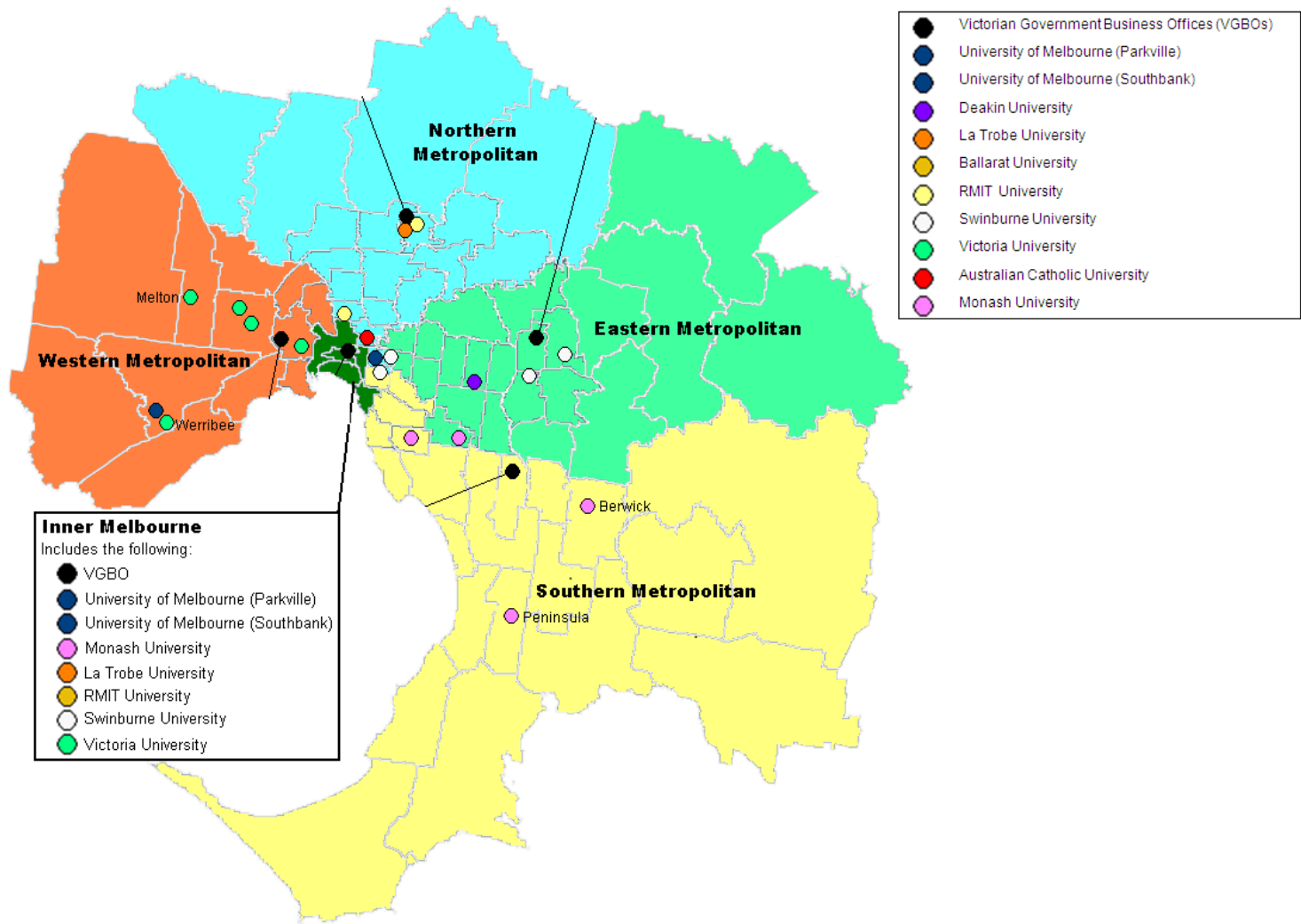


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MILLION
ALUMNI

LARGEST
PROPORTION OF
INTERNATIONAL
HIGHER
EDUCATION
STUDENTS
per capita
in the world



DIVERSE
POPULATION
STUDENTS FROM
180+
COUNTRIES
(80% FROM ASIA)

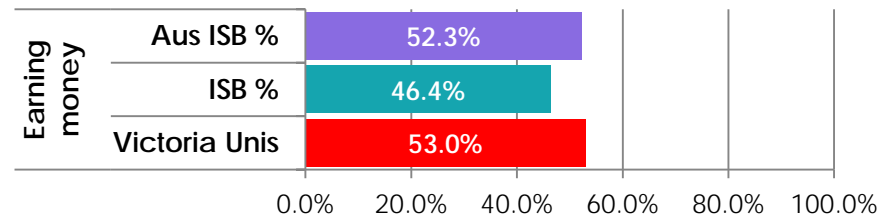
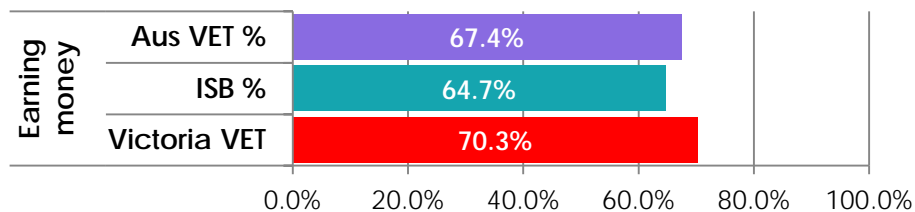
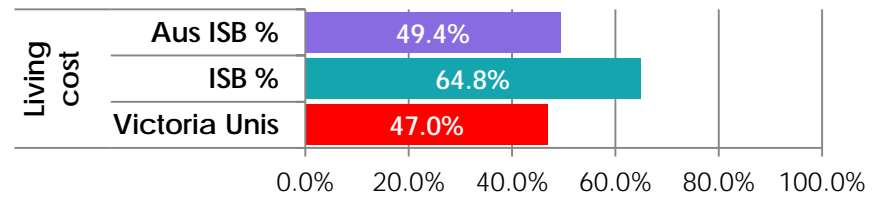
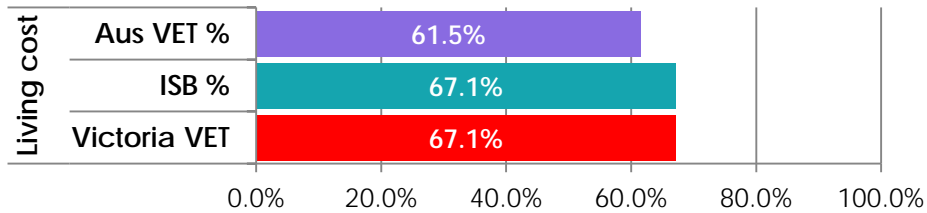
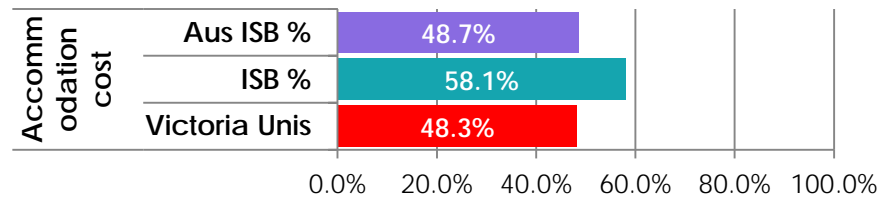
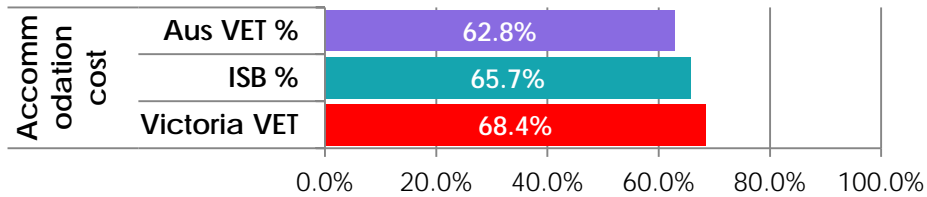


AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR MOVEMENTS





THE BROADER STATE CONTEXT



ACCOMMODATION POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- Research on barriers to affordable and accessible student accommodation



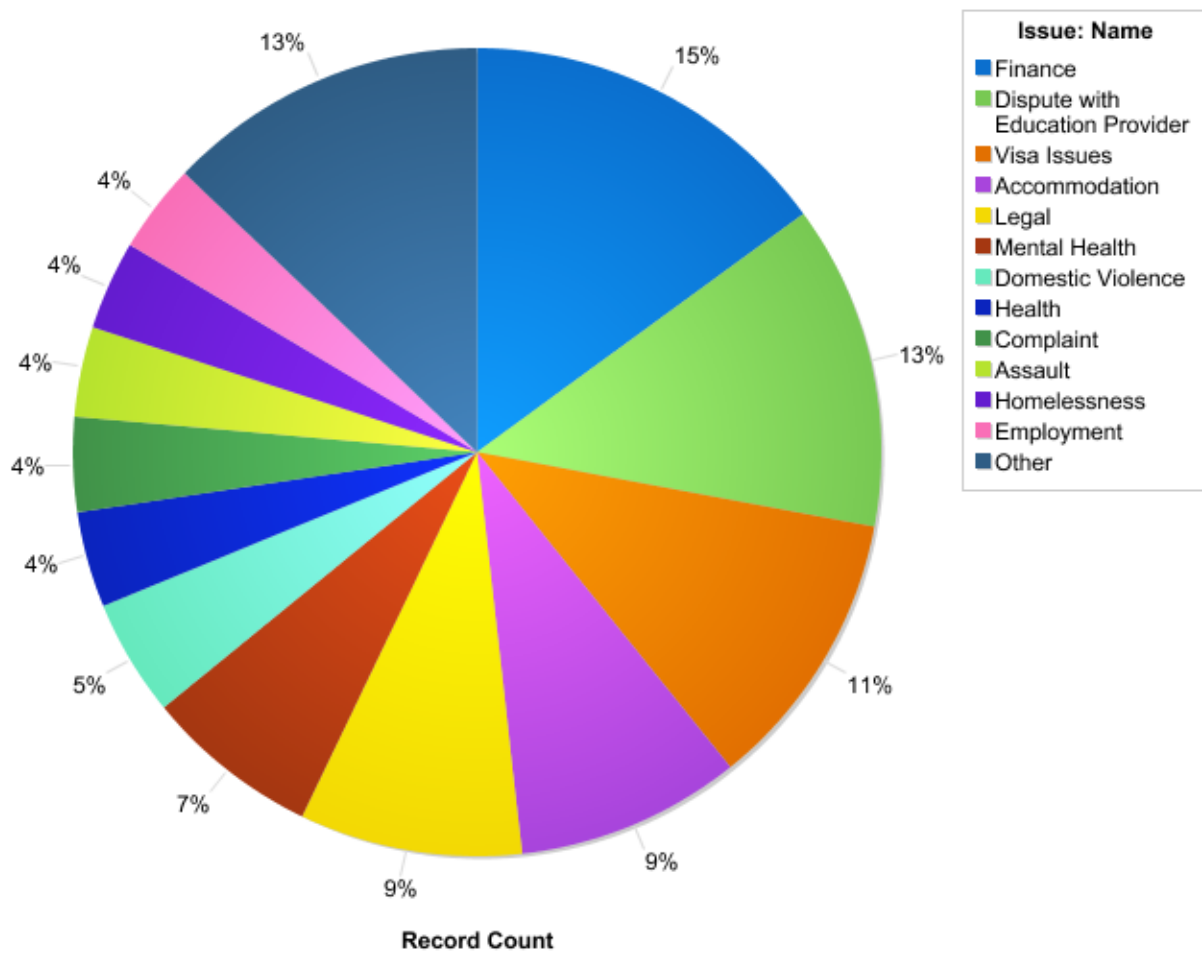
ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS: STUDY MELBOURNE STUDENT CENTRE

A team of trained and experienced social workers providing information and support to all international students in Victoria:

- A welcoming drop in place for students in metro and regional Victoria
- General information and assistance with **accommodation**, health, employability and legal issues
- Access for international students to services in the community through established relationships with community, health and other service providers
- Case work support for students experiencing crisis or emergency
- Crisis intervention and support in emergency situations, including material aid



ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS



ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

A student leasing a property directly off the landlord was asked to leave their accommodation and given only two weeks notice. SMSC assisted the student to seek advice from Consumer Affairs Victoria, with a telephone interpreting service. CAV advised the student that the notice given was not within the Act. SMSC helped student to communicate to the landlord with this information and negotiate for a more appropriate time frame

A college contacted SMSC to seek advice about how to handle a matter regarding homestay and insurance. A students homestay accommodation had been flooded and his property damaged. The homestay family lodged an insurance claim but did not pass on the funds to the student. SMSC advised the college to advocate to the Homestay company for the student. The student was able to recover their share of the insurance payout as a result.

A student suffered a serious assault and was admitted to hospital, whilst he was admitted and unable to work his temporary accommodation expired leaving him homeless. SMSC were contacted and assisted him to move into appropriate crisis accommodation post discharge, which enabled him to secure a new job and therefore find long term accommodation.

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WELFARE GRANTS

The International Student Welfare Grants is a \$4 million Labor Government initiative to fund organisations to deliver projects that support international students during their stay in Victoria.

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WELFARE GRANTS PROGRAM?

- Grants of up to \$50,000 per year
- Supporting students studying at Universities, TAFEs, RTOs and ELICOS Providers (i.e. post secondary)
- Four year program
- Complements services already delivered by the Victorian Government
- Helps promote Victoria as an attractive study destination and a leader in international education



HOW WILL THE PROGRAM SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

- **Increase awareness of existing services** available for international students in Victoria
- Address **a wide range** of international student matters in areas such as:
 - social isolation
 - health
 - community connectedness
 - safety
 - housing
 - financial management
 - consumer affairs matters
- **Respond** to either existing international student welfare needs, **or prevention** of potential issues

PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WELFARE GRANTS

The Victorian Government has identified six principles that will inform the administering of the program:

- **Promote groups** that can improve international student support and inclusion
- **Encourage collaboration and partnerships** to improve student welfare
- Provide opportunities to enable international student groups to undertake **new activities or expand existing ones**
- **Leverage existing programs/services** in addressing international student welfare issues
- Ensure projects cater for **diverse language needs** and are culturally responsive
- Ensure **projects supplement and do not duplicate existing student experience offerings** of the Victorian Government or education providers



WHICH ORGANISATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Eligible organisations must be:

- A legal entity operating in Victoria with a registered ABN
- Have been in existence as a legal entity for more than two years
- Be willing to provide financial reports upon request (for grants between \$10,000 and \$50,000)

Eligible organisations include:

- Student associations
- Industry associations
- Education providers
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Local government organisations
- Dedicated international student community organisations

Eligible organisations that are not international student associations are expected to partner with an international student support organisation or association.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT?

Type of activities that would be considered include (but are not limited to):

- Welfare services (professional and financial advice, and counselling)
- Events
- Workshops
- Volunteering and leadership programs
- Sporting activities
- Applied research to inform best practice
- Shareable practice guides to improve student experience

Excluded project activities include: capital expenditure, purchase of major capital equipment and fundraising and competition activities.

WHAT ARE THE PROJECT REQUIREMENTS?

Eligible applying organisations can apply for up to \$50,000 per project, per year, to deliver projects that support international students during their stay in Victoria.

- Projects funded will be required to commence and complete their activities within a 12-month period (multi-year funding may be considered)
- Successful projects must be delivered under the appropriate Victorian Government brand
- Project activities must occur within Victoria
- International student involvement in projects as interns, volunteers or paid employees will be encouraged

CO-CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants are required to provide an in-kind contribution.

- A minimum 'in-kind' contribution matched to the level of the grant is required for all projects

Cash contributions are sometimes required.

- An additional cash contribution is required for the project component related to any private, commercial or local government partners



HOW WILL APPLICATIONS BE EVALUATED?

The assessment process will be competitive and merit-based

Each application is assessed against four criteria:

1. Capacity to deliver projects or activities for Victorian based international students
2. Ability to demonstrate that the project addresses an existing gap/issue, targets potential issues by way of prevention or education, or enhances student experience
3. Quality of the project
4. Approach to engaging Victorian based international students in the proposed project



HOW TO APPLY

Generally: A two stage application process will apply

- View the program guidelines and lodge an Expression of Interest (Eol) at any time
- Work with the department as needed to develop ideas
- Selected Eol applicants to submit a full grant application

Initial first round:

- Well developed projects can skip the Eol stage until 11 September 2015
- Early discussion with the department strongly recommended
- View the program guidelines and submit an application via an online grant form
- Complete a budget/finance plan using the template provided

Online forms for both Eol and Grants are available on the Business Victoria website

TO FIND OUT MORE

Visit: www.business.vic.gov.au

- View the International Student Welfare Grants Program Guidelines
- Lodge an EoI or grant application

For further advice or guidance
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