

To be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Committee on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2019

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians of the land:

I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and learn, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. I pay my respect to the First Nations people and their Elders, past present and emerging.

At the beginning I wanted to thank previous and current executive committee members for their commitment and hard work. Everyone is volunteering their time and as a result we were able to keep initiatives flowing and positively contribute to the industry.

2018 AGM brought several changes to the committee. Positions of President - Annette Kalczynska, Vice-president - Petrina Hennessy and PD Manager - Melissa de Silva have been filled at the AGM in November 2018. Communications Coordinator – Roshana Sultan was nominated by ACTiveNSW committee members later in 2019.

Special thanks to the previous committee members, Lyndall Benton, Angela Leota-Hughes, Nuala Myatt-Bocarro, for introducing me to the principles of the ISANA operations. Continuing members also need be thanked, Charlotte Long, Secretary and Amy Choo, Treasurer, have served diligently during this time of transition. Thanks to all of you for your commitment to ISANA, International students and our members. This year we also farewell Melissa de Silva, Professional Development Manager. Melissa was passionate about her role but resigned from her position; and on behalf of members I'd like to express our deepest thanks for her service.

2019 have been a year of acclimatisation for me as a branch president. Continuing developing relationships with several industry partners is going to be a priority for me next year.

Committee's collective achievements this year include: 5 Professional Development sessions and several industry engagement activities.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS IN 2019 - ACTIVENSW**

**Tenancy and Accommodation, How to Advise International Students** - 17 May 2019

Trainer: Melissa De Silva, University of Sydney

**Domestic Violence and sexual assault PD session** - 16 August 2019

Trainer: Monique Dam Advocacy and Prevention Manager from DV NSW

**Understanding the ESOS Legislative Framework.** - 20 September 2019

Trainer: Danielle Hartridge, International Education Knowledgebase.

**Supporting and Welfare Monitoring of under 18 International Students** - 11 October 2019

Trainer: Kasia Orlando, UNSW

**Understanding the ESOS Legislative Framework.** - 4 November 2019

Trainer: Danielle Hartridge, International Education Knowledgebase

Executive committee is open for discussion with members regarding PD needs in ACT and NSW. Everyone is welcome to submit PD topic suggestions on the website. One of the first action items for 2020 will be to establish our members PD needs through a survey.

## **INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT IN 2019 - ACTIVENSW**

This year we continued building relationships and attending several industry meetings and events.

### **1. Redfern Legal Centre**

In March Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) held an info session for Australia Institute of Business and Technology, Diploma of Nursing students affected by lack of accreditation of ANMAC Australian Nursing & Midwifery Accreditation Council. As a result of that students were not able to work as a nurse in Australia

RLC organised session for affected student and informed them about their rights and were looking at the legal situation and whether students may have any compensation claims against the college. For stressed or depressed because of AIBT accreditation issues student may be covered by OHSC

The topics discussed: Problem with information received from education agents. Possibilities of deferring or suspending your study, applying for a refund from your education provider, making a complaint about your education provider, making a complaint to the Overseas Students Ombudsman

### **2. City of Sydney**

- ISLA International Student Leadership and Ambassador Program Inauguration
- Lord Mayor Welcome for International Students
- Feasibility of CBD based student centre for physical and virtual services, April 2019
- Shaping Sydney to 2050 – Our city, our future, 19 June 2019
- Planning for Sydney 2050 - Stakeholders briefing, 15 August 2019
- International Education Forum, September 2019

### **ISLA**

International Student Leadership and Ambassador Program Inauguration

The City's award-winning international student leadership and ambassador program aims to increase the positive experience of all international students and build Sydney's reputation as a preferred destination to study.

The program offers free training, work integrated learning and volunteering opportunities to enhance international student leadership skills and experience, which become transferable to their future careers. Participants also have an opportunity to make new friends, build a local support network and develop a sense of belonging while getting involved in local events and activities.

### **The Lord Mayor's welcome for international students**

Gathers around 1,000 international students from over 60 nations. This year's event will take place on 11 April at historic Sydney Town Hall.

The event is a great way to connect with your fellow students, community groups, health and safety services and tertiary education institutions.

Many stakeholders including ISANA are invited to represent their respective fields, provide information and advice e.g. Lifesavers, firefighters, police and members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

### **Feasibility of CBD based student centre for physical and virtual services**

Robert Parsonson is working with the City of Sydney on a project to scope the feasibility of CBD based student centre for physical and virtual services. This is the outcome of Last year's International Education Providers Forum workshop on wellbeing of international students.

CBD located physical space and online services can be utilised by the different services and organisations that currently work with international (and domestic) students.

Different organisations will be able to use facility in creative and innovative ways. Main usage proposals include employability, and entrepreneurship

### **Shaping Sydney to 2050 – Our city, our future**

Continuation of the discussion about the future of Sydney. Issues discussed will help you prepare our city may grow and change over coming decades. City of Sydney have developed an issues paper that draws on research they've done on issues. This paper identifies 5 interrelated issues we want to explore with you around questions of growth, liveability, diversity, environment future economy.

It also includes our thoughts on governance and stewardship as we develop and implement our plan for 2050.

### **Community Insights Report.**

This report consolidates the outcomes from the community engagement CoS have done so far to inform our plan to 2050. It identifies consistent messages and overarching values and themes expressed by the community.

### **3. Intercultural Sports Day,**

ISANA applied for the City of Sydney Youth Week grant for the third time. Event was called **Intercultural Sports Day**, and took place 12 April 2019

Youth week is a very important community engagement event in Sydney. Many organisations are working with City of Sydney and other councils to create a comprehensive engagement and entertainment program for young Australians. ISANA and its member institutions are representing international students' cohort

ISANA's Intercultural Sports Day, was considered as a great success by 100% attendees.

### **4. NSW Government (StudyNSW)**

The latter local government organisation has been instrumental in making contacts within the fields of international education and associated support service and we look forward to working harder to strengthen these bonds in the next year.

### **NSW Global Connections**

Study NSW has partnered with Outcome. Life to deliver a series of employability workshops for international students. There are also resources for international students to identify career goals and enhance their employability.

- Why professional networks are so important and how to build one
- How to conduct yourself in the professional Australian work environment and the expectations of being an intern
- Top tips for expanding your job prospects
- Free Employability Training Course
- How to enter hidden job market

- Why LinkedIn is important and how to get the most out of it
- Resume Writing Skills, Cover Letters and Key Selection Criteria webinars

### **5. International Student Project Working Group**

- Play Safe Peer Education and Youth Advisory Committee
- International Students Sexual & Reproductive Health Promotion Project

Purpose: to increase opportunities for international students to access accurate and reliable sexual health information.

Passport shaped folder developed with information cards, condoms and referral pathways.

Last point I would like to mention in my 2019 report is to ask members of ISANA ACT and NSW to consider taking active part in opportunities coming from StudyNSW initiatives and open it for discussion. Applications are closing in June each year.

### **StudyNSW Partner Projects**

Every year Study NSW co-funds projects that are delivered in partnership with industry. Study NSW accepts applications from education providers and organisations that have a focus on international education. Favourable consideration will be offered to projects which seek to enhance the experience of international students by:

- creating work-integrated learning or work experience opportunities during studies;
- improving access to employment post-studies;
- addressing cost of living issues (e.g. availability of suitable and affordable accommodation);
- raising community awareness of the benefits of international students to NSW and its residents.

I am a forward-thinking person and want to look to the future. In my opinion it was a relatively successful year for ACTiveNSW, yet I am deeply committed build on that. I

hope the rest of the team is also team is also committed to making a stronger impact in 2020. To do this we need to work hard to provide resources and information that facilitates the cause of International Education and the students that we all serve.

Our aim for 2020 is to develop further our relationships with local Government organisations. One of the points of interest will be StudyNSW Partner Projects mentioned above

We intend to work to implement more strategic approach to delivering PD sessions and create more networking opportunities for our members. We will also work on regular newsletter informing NSW and ACT members of issues of relevance to International Education. We also hope to incorporate greater use of technology including digital media. But to do this we also need engagement from our membership. We serve to support you in your work, and this means we need greater communication and interaction.

How can we ensure our vision is achieved? WE need to ask all members to:

- Interact with your committee members.
- Communicate your needs and interests
- Respond to call outs from your committee

As a last point I'd like to personally ask all members to consider joining the committee, as with a bigger team we can make a greater impact. We are a volunteer group of five, doing our best to provide services for 130 members across the whole of NSW and ACT. I ask you to get engaged, get involved and help to strengthen the already solid work that ISANA has done and will continue to do in the coming year.

Thank you for your time, commitment and attendance.