



Friday 19 June 2015

Mr John Carter
Inquiry Secretary
The Joint Select Committee on Trade and Investment Growth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
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Dear Mr Carter

Inquiry into the Business Experience in Utilising Australia's Free Trade Agreements

Universities Australia notes the intention of the committee to promote the utilisation of existing and future Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and is pleased to provide a response to the Inquiry.

Our experience is that universities have not benefited appreciably from FTAs in the past. However, the process of negotiating these agreements can bring welcome attention to behind the border issues in education and research including qualifications recognition and the movement of academics and researchers across borders.

Potential areas where FTAs could improve Australia's competitiveness in education, training and research include reduced regulation and restrictions on the establishment of overseas campuses, the repatriation of funds from offshore programs, increased recognition by government and professional accreditation bodies of Australian qualifications and greater flexibility in the movement of students and academics for education and research across borders.

This Inquiry into the utilisation of FTAs may prove useful to universities in identifying how these agreements could be used to improve our competitiveness in the global market. We look forward to the Committee's report.

Yours sincerely

Anne-Marie Lansdown
Deputy Chief Executive