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Parliament of Australia
The Senate
Select Committee on Temporary Migration
By Email: temporarymigration.sen@aph.gov.au

Submission to the Senate Select Committee on Temporary Migration The University of Notre Dame Australia

Temporary Graduate Visa

The Temporary Graduate Visa (subclass 485) is a valuable component of Australia's migration program and provides Australian employers with job-ready graduates who bring with them global perspectives, a range of technical and soft skills and extensive international business and social linkages. The Temporary Graduate Visa is also an essential element of the drivers which influence international student decision making in relation to their choice of study destination. Any uncertainty created by a modification to, or removal of, post-study work opportunities for international students will inevitably have a long-term reputational impact on Australia's international student market. Recent changes in the UK, which have seen the reintroduction of two year post-study work visas, and a commensurate response in their international student market, underscore the relevance and importance of the Temporary Graduate Visa to Australia's labour market and education sector.

Temporary Skilled Visas

International mobility and collaboration are crucial to Australia's research endeavours and it is essential that temporary migration settings do not unintentionally put in place barriers to the recruitment of world-class scholars and professionals. Australia's international reputation for high quality research and education is directly linked to the long-term engagement of high quality international researchers who work in Universities and Research Institutes. Temporary Skilled Visas that provide sufficient flexibility for Universities to attract and retain world-class scholars and researchers are essential to Australia's long-term international reputation and global standings.

Impact of Wage Theft, Breaches of Workplace Rights and Conditions, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Universities are highly attuned to issues related to wage theft, breaches of workplace rights and conditions, modern slavery and human trafficking, particularly as they relate to relevant supply chains, as well as international students studying in Australia on student visas (subclass 500). The *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students* sets out the services that education institutions are required to provide to international students; such services include access to information on employment rights and conditions, and channels available to them to resolve workplace issues. Arguably, addressing these serious matters is a whole-of-sector and whole-of-society challenge and it is submitted here that modifications to temporary migration settings alone will not adequately address these complex issues.

Communications and the Impact of Change

The relevance of migration and temporary visa settings to Australia's international education industry cannot be understated. Changes, and impending changes, to these settings can easily create uncertainty and it is essential that any proposed modifications to Temporary Migration settings are clearly communicated to the public and the relevant sectors. The breadth and extent of any changes to migration settings need to be carefully considered, both within individual sectors of the economy as well as across the workforce more broadly.

Finally, Notre Dame affirms its support of the input from *Universities Australia* in relation to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

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