

Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Opportunities for strengthening Australia's relations with the Republic of France - 26 June 2020

Outcome: International

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000102

The Committee provided in writing.

Exchange of secondary and tertiary students

Question

1. What policies are currently in place to promote the exchange of secondary and tertiary students between Australia and France?
2. What policies are currently in place to promote the exchange of secondary and tertiary students between Australia and the French territories in the Pacific region?

Answer

1. The Australia-France education relationship is mature and the department is not aware of any regulatory impediments to the exchange of secondary and tertiary students between the two countries.

The Australian Government encourages student mobility through implementation of competitive visa settings and work arrangements for incoming students, expanding mobility opportunities for students and supporting graduates through the global recognition of Australian qualifications.

Tertiary student mobility is most often facilitated through agreements between individual Australian and French education institutions. The Australian Government directly supports tertiary student mobility through the provision of OS-HELP loans to students enrolled in Commonwealth Supported Places and also through initiatives such as the \$93.7 million Destination Australia Program.

State and Territory education authorities have responsibility for international school student exchange policies.

2. The New Colombo Plan promotes student mobility between Australia and French Polynesia and New Caledonia. Australia Awards Scholarships also promote student mobility between Australia and Wallis and Futuna.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is responsible for administration of both the New Colombo Plan and the Australia Awards.

With respect to social mobility at the secondary school level, State and Territory education authorities have responsibility for international student exchange policies.