

**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. IQ20-000101**

The Committee provided in writing.

***Attracting more French tertiary students to Australia***

**Question**

CHAIR: During an earlier day of hearing, we spent some of that time discussing how we could attract a greater number of French tertiary students to Australia. What's your view on how we could go about doing that?

Mr McInnes: I would probably defer that question to colleagues at the department of education. I would say, in the broad, that education is a key part of our economy and a key part of our relationship with France. But in terms of particular policy prescriptions I'd probably have to refer that question to our colleagues at the department of education.

CHAIR: That's fine. Has it not come up in the Australia-France trade and investment area? Or is it fintech, critical minerals, renewable energy and the Indonesia-Pacific that's really been discussed there? I'm just cognisant of the fact that we did spend quite a bit of time the other day looking at the tertiary sector in Australia and at how we might attract more French students; but we can certainly put those questions to the department of education. On the dialogues, how frequently is that dialogue held? Or has there only been one, and that was in November last year?

**Answer**

The Australia-France education relationship is mature and there are no regulatory impediments to French tertiary students studying in Australia.

Tertiary education providers are autonomous institutions and make their own decisions about how to attract and retain international students, and on which global partnerships they wish to focus.