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**ABSTRACT FOR A PRESENTATION TO BE DELIVERED AT ISANA 2010:  
Engaging with the wider community**

**TITLE: Student Employability**

The OECD 2007 report *How might the changing labour market transform higher education?* described how there is often a mismatch between course selection and labour market outcomes as a result of bad information, wrong interpretation of labour market 'signals' and the labour market changing significantly during a student's studies.

In 2009, IDP Education found in its study *Buyer Behaviour of International Students*, that students frequently based their choices of course on their perceptions of future labour demand – often influenced by imperfect information.

Building on this work, in 2010 IDP Education commissioned an update of this research given the changes to the Skilled Occupation List in Australia and the implications for the Australian education industry.

Our paper, titled *Student Employability*, highlights the engagement of international students with the wider community through the fundamental and essential context of employment and employability.

It discusses key findings of the research, including how labour market trends affect student choice in key source markets, examines the drivers that lead to mismatches between labour market demand and graduate supply and establishes what needs to change to strengthen the links between higher education and the labour market.

With ongoing changes in the Australian Government's policy on skilled occupations and migration requirements, it is timely to discuss their impact on the international student cohort and put forward guidelines how the Australian education sector can cater for an ever changing labour market and ensure the employability of foreign students.