

## **Think Before: A Student Wellbeing Initiative**

Education bodies accept there is a plethora of information available to international students across key duty of care issues. What is less clear is how much of this information is being accessed and used by students. Reports suggest students are either overlooking or ignoring important messages.

In August 2010 *Think Before* – a student safety initiative was launched to improve situational awareness among international students using digital services, animation, video, social media and SMS to distribute information to students on the same tools that they communicate with each other.

*Think Before* organisers now aim to expand the strategy to other duty of care issues. By extending this strategy international education stakeholders can collaborate on a national campaign to manage and fund pastoral care issues to improve the wellbeing of students while helping to foster dialogue and to enhance social cohesion among local and international students.

*Think Before* is non-aligned so issues in this field are not identified with any one institution. The communication strategy is designed to be preventative and not reactive which will allow the international education sector to improve its standing on these issues. By providing enhanced duty of care communication strategies using digital tools and social media students will improve their knowledge and be more proactive in engaging on personal safety, health and wellbeing, accommodation and community engagement issues to help deliver a high quality life experience in Australia.

This interactive presentation will look at how digital technologies have been adopted to improve communication with international students and how these strategies can be expanded to other duty of care issues.

### **Presenters**

Larry Anderson, Think Before Executive Director

Ian Geddes, Inspector, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief Commissioner, Victoria Police

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