

## **Government Panel**

### ***The International Student Experience Survey: Where to from here?***

Steve Nerlich, Christopher Lawson

Australian Education International has been undertaking a range of research activities in 2011 on international students' experience of studying and living in Australia. Under the Council of Australian Governments' International Student Strategy for Australia, the Australian Government conducted an International Student Survey in 2010 with collected over 50,000 responses from international students across Australia in different education sectors. Another survey will be conducted again in 2012.

In 2011 we have conducted focus groups with international and Australian students, as well as Australian educators, seeking their views on some key issues arising from the 2010 survey. Such issues include interaction between international and Australian students, awareness of student support services and opportunities for work experience. AEI also commissioned the University of Melbourne to undertake research into internationalising the student experience in Australian tertiary education and supported national symposiums on research into international education in Australia. The outcomes of these activities will be presented and some common themes identified. This research will inform the International Student Survey in 2012.

#### **Presenters**

Steve Nerlich has been Director of Australian Education International (AEI)'s International Research and Analysis Unit since February 2008. AEI is the international arm of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The International Research and Analysis Unit is responsible for the monthly publication of AEI International Student Data, as well as associated fact sheets and research papers. The Unit also manages survey-based research on international students' experience of studying and living in Australia, including the 2010 International Student Survey.

Christopher Lawson has worked in Australian Education International (AEI) for more than ten years, including six years in AEI's International Research and Analysis Unit. He has played a lead role in major national research projects, including a 2009 study of international students' employment outcomes after graduation and the 2010 International Student Survey. He is currently involved in research looking at international student perceptions about their study and living experience in Australia and opportunities to improve their experience.