

City of Melbourne : Developing an International Student Strategy

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International students comprise a sizable proportion of the residential population and student population in the City of Melbourne, estimated at approximately 30,000 students in 2010. In recent years, since 2006 the City of Melbourne has developed a robust calendar of events and award winning programs for international students, supported by the City's strategy for youth, 'Empowering Young People: Young People's Policy 2010 – 2013'. In 2012/13, a key strategy activity of the City of Melbourne is the development of the 'Knowledge Melbourne program'. One of the deliverables of this project is an International Student Strategy.

A discussion paper was developed to identify the potential role of the City of Melbourne to enhance the experiences and wellbeing of international students across Council's services, programs and activities.

This document provides the basis for discussions with education sector, government and the broader community in the strategy development consisting of a stakeholder forum in 2012 and broader consultation in 2013, following the release of the draft of the strategy. This presentation seeks to inform the audience of the various opportunities to be involved.

This presentation will provide the audience with an overview of the discussion paper as well as a summary of the various international student programs and activities run at the City of Melbourne. Key findings from recent research conducted by the City of Melbourne will also be presented identifying the needs of international students in the municipality in relation to interaction between the community and international students, social and cross cultural awareness of international students and youth and programs that encourage and enhance cross cultural adjustment for students in the city.

Key Words

International students, local government, strategy, framework, consultation, programs, well-being, services, safety, engagement, community, needs, experiences