

# **Initiating International Students Support Groups: Strategies and Sustainability**

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This paper highlights innovative steps in setting up international students social support groups within the International Student Services at QUT. Case studies will be utilised to demonstrate effective ways of engaging students to be actively involved so that they develop a sense of ownership of the support group's initiatives. Participation by both international students and domestic students and their interaction will be described. Practical strategies that are applied in order that various support groups become sustainable will be identified. Obstacles and lessons learned in initiating support groups will be discussed. A summary of qualitative feedback from students on how the support groups have enhanced their social life in the university will also be included in the discussion.