OVERSEAS STUDENTS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES – THE ORIGINS OF STUDENT SUPPORT IN AUSTRALIA?

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“The presence of these students here is also helping to enrich Australian life.”

“AOCOS Invitation pamphlet,” 1956
...‘the arrival of Colombo Plan students was one of the most conspicuous and striking examples of Australia’s aid program, which had an immediate impact on the lives of many Australians’...

Daniel Oakman, 2002
‘many will be leading members of their communities when they return home, and it is important to give them a real insight into the way Australians think and live.’

The Organisations ‘banded together in a Co-ordinating Committee with the aim of helping visiting students and making them feel truly welcome in Australia.’
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Also...political influence
Or a tool of the Government?

In Overseas Students' Affairs

The sinister role of ADAB

Government departments have always been and remain the main source of national liberation. Through this period, ADAB, acting as a government agency, has actually been conducting anti-student activities. New events include the issue of such things as visa requirements, course approvals, progress reports, and so on. ADAB did nothing to help overseas students. They go against every government policy.

MOSAIC, which is responsible for overseas students in this category, is not using ADAB. They are still following government policies. Their role is to terminate overseas students.

SUMMARY

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Who’s who?
Lost connections?
What now?

The Co-ordinating Committee model offered a deeper, stronger and more entrenched connection between the Australian community and international students. High profile support for international education came not from the sector itself but from the broader Australian community and business world. There was a sense in these Committees and Councils that international education is not just an “export industry”, but also part of Australia’s connection and contribution to the broader world.