

**LAUNCH OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA,  
DRAWING ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2019**

Good evening and welcome to this reception to launch The Association of International Education Providers.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

In April when we were hosting the Ambassador of Kora here at Government House, Damon Thomas suggested we do something to recognise International Education Providers who sometimes are overlooked because the focus tends to be on the University of Tasmania which is the major destination of international students.

In fact, as I have learnt, vocational education providers include not only Tafe, but Registered Training Organisations such as the Clinton Institute, TasCollege, RGIT, ALTEC College and The Mercury Institute of Victoria. And Damon has informed me that there are 16 or so providers in Hobart. That fact, would I think, surprise many.

As a former university academic who has taught many international students and students in Malaysia who went on to complete their degrees here in Tasmania, I am well aware of the cultural, social and economic benefits in attracting international students to our state and I am alert to the potential for international students to be ambassadors for Tasmania in their home country.

I am also aware of the obligation we have as education providers to ensure that the educational experience we give to international students is a good one and that they are given sufficient academic and social support during their studies.

Forming an Association of International Education Providers is an excellent idea, to support those providers and in turn their students. The Association aims to bring those International Colleges closer to our community and to make them feel welcome here along with their students. I understand the Association has engaged Professor Peter Frappell to survey international students to determine how well they have integrated into our community – an important aspiration if we are to gain the cultural benefits of hosting international students and also important for their student experience.

Thank you.