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ATN welcomes government changes to student visas

The **Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN)** has welcomed the changes to the Australian international student visa system announced today by the Federal Government in response to the review undertaken by Michael Knight.

ATN Executive Director, Ms Vicki Thomson, said the priority given to the university sector by the Government, and acknowledged in the Knight review, was a strong recognition of the integral role of universities in supporting the National economy.

“The ATN had advocated for urgent reforms and a risk based approach to protect this major export sector. The Government has delivered on that today with their response and immediate action in adopting key recommendations of the Knight review and for that they should be congratulated,” Ms Thomson said.

“The streamlining of the visa processing for universities, coupled with the introduction of a post - study work visa and a reduction of the financial requirements for higher risk assessment levels are significant changes which send a strong signal regarding the importance of universities in the international education market.

Research commissioned by the ATN and presented to Ministers Evans and Bowen as part of the review process highlighted the anomalies which existed - and these anomalies have now been addressed.”

The ATN group educates one in four International students currently studying in Australia.

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