




Speech By
Hon. Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Study Queensland

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (8.10 pm): I stand in the House tonight to speak about Study Queensland. This is a state government organisation that is responsible for promoting Queensland as a study destination and a preferred partner for education, training, research and innovation literally across the world. Each year more than five million students search the globe looking for an international destination where they can extend their education and training, and it is Study Queensland's role to capture and entice these students to our beautiful state. It is challenging. COVID has had a significant impact. Its work has absolutely doubled and we need to see a lot more of that happening. We know that Queensland attracts the most diverse student cohorts globally who contribute significantly to the communities where they reside, study and work. As is often the case, and as we love to see, a lot of them will end up staying and working here. These students bring with them their diverse cultures, languages, cuisines, strong global competencies and extensive international networks, not to mention a strong visiting friends and relatives market.

Study Queensland's vision is to build a strong and sustainable Queensland in the international educational and training industry, which we are doing, and it promotes global engagement, it nurtures lifelong ambassadors and it is a catalyst for attracting and developing talent to grow economies and communities, and this is absolutely essential. Let's look at some of the numbers we are getting across the state and where they are coming from. We are seeing significant increasing numbers coming from Brazil, Colombia and Vietnam and we also have those traditional areas of Germany, India, North America and Japan.

There are specialists at Study Queensland who are providers in accessing new opportunities and we are ensuring we are targeting those specific markets. If I take Cairns as an example, our international students not only reside in a beautiful city that has outstanding temperatures when the rain stops—which it has, finally, after six months—but it provides our hospitality industry with a significant labour force. That goes also for our aqua and agricultural industries. I know this happens right across Queensland. Not only does Study Queensland do a good job ensuring we are providing world-class facilities; it makes sure these students are welcomed into Queensland.

Over 30 per cent of these students come into regional cities. As I said, this brings its own economic benefits. There have been some forums lately in Cairns and on the Sunshine Coast, and we will continue to have forums across the state. We will continue to involve the private sector, councils, industry and the agricultural industry to ensure they are aware that we need to get more international students here. There are some challenges in relation to the federal government. We are working our way through those, but I want to commend the members of the team for the work they do and acknowledge that they have a lot ahead of them to do but we support them strongly.