

**Question on Notice
No. 88
Asked on 5 Feb 2020**

MR D PEGG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR INNOVATION AND TOURISM
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER FOR CROSS RIVER RAIL
(HON K JONES) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what support is being provided to Chinese students in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to supporting all international students who choose to study in Queensland.

The sudden outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is threatening the health and wellbeing of people around the world and causing significant disruption to travel between Queensland and China.

The outbreak has coincided with the start of Queensland's academic year, an important time as many new and returning students travel between China and Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering a \$27 million Coronavirus Aid Package to support Queensland businesses and industries impacted by COVID-19. This package includes \$3 million to assist the Queensland international education and training sector, including individual student support service and tailored support for approximately 13 000 Chinese students returning to Queensland.

In response to COVID-19, the Palaszczuk Government is also working to support the international education and training sector. To this end, Study Queensland has:

- brought together key stakeholders to understand and manage likely impacts and implications
- participated in the Australian Government's Global Reputation Taskforce
- shared key messages with the broader international education and training sector stakeholder groups across the state
- updated the 1800QStudy hotline to ensure it provides specific information for Chinese students
- convened a meeting with the Queensland International Student Advisory Panel to understand the student community perspective and effective options for engagement
- developed a student video campaign to share messages of support for fellow students still in China and in isolation
- shared messages of support across social media networks to reach Chinese students onshore and offshore
- developed and distributed 'welcome packages' to support students in isolation

- supported welcome events to ensure effective integration of returning students
- engaged with the Chinese community in Queensland, through the Consul-General and the Australia China Business Council.

The Palaszczuk Government is also developing short and medium-term recovery plans and contributing to a national economic recovery plan that include actions to:

- further strengthening our cooperative relationships with Chinese partners
- supporting Queensland education and accommodation providers to develop and manage contingency plans that may assist an earlier return of Chinese students
- build further capacity across the sector to nurture and support international students in Queensland.