



Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Assessment Summary

The Triple Bottom Line Assessment is required to be published in accordance with Part 4, section 23 (1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2016

20/371 – Canberra International Student Pilot

Summary of impacts

- The economic benefits are substantial, both for institutions and the local economy through economic spend, labour force impacts, confidence in the education sector, and study-destination marketing benefits in being the first jurisdiction to welcome international students since Australia's borders have been closed.
- The return of international students also provides positive social impacts, particularly in terms of supporting diversity and further reinforcing Canberra's position as an inclusive and welcoming city to temporary migrant groups.
- The key risk to be managed is that a returning student could test COVID-19 positive and in a worst-case scenario spread infection. The approach set out by ACT Health has been tested, evaluated and adjusted through consecutive repatriation flights. The measures put in place have proved effective in managing the risks of a positive COVID-19 test. Additionally, institutions are developing comprehensive risk management approach which will be applied across the ACT Pilot Program

Level of impact	Positive	Negative	Neutral
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Social		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Neutral	Health (community health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing and quarantine arrangements are proven and effective. Impacts on community health are unlikely due to quarantine and containment arrangements as observed with cohorts of repatriated Australians. The risk is considered neutral as the mitigations strategies in place are strong, tried and tested.
Neutral	Health (mental health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mental health of participants during and after quarantine will need to be monitored and the universities will be implementing a significant health and wellbeing program to support students during the quarantine period that will be integrated and coordinated with existing ACT Health services
Positive	Housing and Affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The return of overseas international students is likely to be welcomed by the housing and accommodation sectors, landlords and developers, as a large cohort that has supported past demand and construction.

Positive	Multicultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The return of international students will continue to build Canberra's reputation as a progressive and inclusive city. International students often interact with our local multicultural groups which improves culture, vitality and diversity.
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Economic		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Positive	ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2018 Deloitte report estimated that each international student living and studying in Canberra contributed at least \$50,000 to the economy. The proposed pilot program returning 700 students will bring a \$35 million economic contribution to the ACT.
Positive	Small business impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International student spend on local/living expenses of at least \$20,000 per student per year will benefit small and local businesses.
Positive	Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After graduation and once qualified, international students will be able to take up a graduate work visa for a length of time related to their studies, potentially providing a larger talent pool and increasing the skills profile of the ACT workforce, depending on qualification and level of study.
Positive	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, international student fees are used by universities to cross subsidise research, course costs including for teaching domestic students, and staffing. Without this revenue, universities have signalled they will need to cut these and other areas.
Positive	Investment and Economic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universities are key drivers of investment and economic activity in the ACT, including but not limited to campus developments and innovation networks. International students also contribute significantly to population growth.

Environmental	Nil
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