



Ric Wells
Head Korea Australia FTA Taskforce
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R G Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
BARTON ACT 0221

Dear Mr Wells

Submission on Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) is the national peak association for Australia's 59 TAFE and technology institutes. International engagement is a key platform for Australian TAFE institutes in their development of skilled workers for a global economy.

Korea and Australia have a long standing trade relationship with particular focus on exchange through education and training. In 2008 over 9,000 Korean students commenced their study for an Australian vocational qualification with a registered training organisation. With the increasing importance of Korea as a trading partner TDA is pleased to make this submission to the Australian Government (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) on the merits of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Republic of Korea and Australia.

TAFE Directors Australia supports any initiative that will enable increased access for Australian industry, students and providers to operate, recruit and partner with Korea.

TAFE Directors Australia member institutes engage with Korea on range of levels:

1. **Inbound Students** – in 2008, the sector recorded over 9,000 enrolments from Korean international students. TAFE in NSW, QLD and VIC hosted the majority of the students with a focus on training in the fields of business and management, food and hospitality, human welfare studies, nursing and accounting.
2. **Study Tours** - are an important part of the Korean international market (with most programs not included in student visa figures). Internships are a popular choice for students and are valued by the Korean Government as a means for young Korean graduates to increase their English and also international exposure.



3. **Transnational Programs** - in country delivery has been growing in significance, predominately in english language and foundation programs.
4. **Offshore Industry Development** – TAFE institutes have begun to partner with local Korean firms to meet their skills needs directly (including training for skills set training rather than full qualifications).
5. **Offshore Pre-migration Assessment** – the VETAssess consortium assess Korean skilled workers in key trades. Other members have commenced this work direct for clients and labour hire firms

TAFE Directors Australia will welcome the opportunity to work with the taskforce in indentifying issues and opportunities with our members throughout the FTA process.

TAFE Directors Australia believe that the development of strong education and training links will lead to greater economic and trade connections in the longer term and therefore offers its support to the FTA study.

Yours sincerely

Martin Riordan
Chief Executive Officer
TAFE Directors Australia

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Australian Korean International Education Enrolments (Vocational Education and Training) 2008

1. Australia – Korean Student Enrolments by sector

Sector	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% Change 2007 - 2008
Higher Education	4,921	5,257	5,448	5,822	6,382	10%
VET	3,594	4,498	5,992	7,586	9,343	23%
Schools	4,384	4,517	4,934	5,495	5,149	-6%
ELICOS	9,773	10,654	13,138	14,013	13,053	-7%
Other	782	900	1,053	1,000	1,128	13%
Grand Total	23,454	25,826	30,565	33,916	35,055	3%

2. Australia VET Sector - Korean Student Enrolments by States and Territories and Provider Type

State	Provider Type	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% Change 2007-08
ACT	Government	16	17	16	30	34	13%
	Non Government	11	22	16	7	8	14%
ACT Total		27	39	32	37	42	14%
NSW	Government	424	404	461	529	641	21%
	Non Government	1,582	2,254	3,127	3,988	4,759	19%
NSW Total		2,006	2,658	3,588	4,517	5,400	20%
NT	Government					2	-
NT Total						2	-
QLD	Government	192	299	367	419	567	35%
	Non Government	420	390	526	754	1,075	43%
QLD Total		612	689	893	1,173	1,642	40%
SA	Government	115	116	126	123	118	-4%
	Non Government	31	36	45	63	92	46%
SA Total		146	152	171	186	210	13%
TAS	Government	28	16	13	15	10	-33%
	Non Government	1	1		3	7	133%
TAS Total		29	17	13	18	17	-6%
VIC	Government	337	316	467	572	694	21%
	Non Government	236	396	568	803	976	22%
VIC Total		573	712	1,035	1,375	1,670	21%
WA	Government	56	61	59	75	116	55%
	Non Government	145	170	201	205	244	19%
WA Total		201	231	260	280	360	29%
Grand Total		3,594	4,498	5,992	7,586	9,343	23%



3. Korean Student Enrolments - Australia Top 5 VET Field of Education – Public providers

Field Of Education	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% Change 2007-2008
Business and Management	3,800	4,263	4,852	5,959	7,213	21%
Food and Hospitality	1,352	2,057	2,922	3,795	4,137	9%
Human Welfare Studies and Services	448	533	641	1,130	2,682	137%
Nursing	422	644	867	1,521	1,791	18%
Accounting	1,069	1,380	1,822	1,969	1,740	-12%