

## IHEA Welcomes the Announcement of Additional University Places

**Independent Higher Education Australia (IHEA)** welcomes the Government's allocation of 20,000 additional university places to specifically support students from under-represented backgrounds, and in areas of skills needs.

We note, however, that for these places, only universities, university colleges, and selected higher education providers currently receiving Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) funding for the purpose of delivering bachelor courses in education and nursing are eligible to apply.

"The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic made it abundantly clear that the domestic economy needs substantial investment in training to address skills and workforce shortages. These additional places will expand the number of education and nursing graduates entering Australia's workforce," said IHEA CEO, Dr Peter Hendy.

"Australian independent higher education is critical to addressing the industry needs of today and educating the workforce of the future. The independent sector should have greater access to these additional places."

"IHEA's diverse members already play an important role in educating students from a range of backgrounds and addressing skill needs in areas such as nursing and education, among others."

"IHEA will continue to work with the government on ways to improve access to higher education and addressing the nation's skills shortages."

**Media Contact:** Matthew Coote, IHEA Communications Manager ([matthew.coote@ihea.edu.au](mailto:matthew.coote@ihea.edu.au))