



Dear Sydney College student

As the world battles COVID-19, it can be a particularly confusing and stressful time for you as a student in Australia. It's important to remember that we are all in this together. Around the country, education institutions, government agencies and the Australian community are banding together to support each other during this uncertainty.

You are away from your family and you may not have the support structures around you that you would normally have in your home country during difficult times. This can have a serious effect on the mental health of overseas students.

Most overseas students support themselves through part time work. Unfortunately, many students have lost their jobs, and this, of course, can cause severe financial stress.

We want you to know that, as a student of Sydney College, we are here to help you. The COVID-19 crisis may have affected your studies including your ability to maintain your attendance or course progress visa requirements.

If that is the case, please come and talk to us. If we know that you are experiencing problems, then we can help you. If you do not tell us or if you do not respond when we contact you, we cannot help you.

The Australian Federal and NSW State Governments have a number of initiatives in place to assist overseas students during the COVID-19 crisis. Please see the attached information sheet for more information.

Sincerely,  
Student Service Team



Australian Government

# Supporting the welfare of international students

Australia prides itself on being a safe, welcoming and multicultural country.

As a community, we have always supported one another in times of need. This includes looking after the health, safety and wellbeing of our international students. The Australian Government, state and territory governments, our educational institutions and community organisations are here to help international students.

## How is the Australian Government supporting health and wellbeing?



Additional funding to **300 community organisations** supporting impacted communities and students. Access is based on need, not visa.



Impacted students are eligible to access relief services along with case work support for temporary visa holders.



Students are covered by their **Overseas Student Health Cover** (OSHC) and have access to Australia's world class health facilities.

## How is the Australian Government providing financial assistance?



Those experiencing financial hardship and who have studied and worked in Australia for 12+ months **can access their superannuation.**



**Extended working arrangements** for students employed by health, disability and aged care institutions.



National Cabinet endorsed a **six-month ban on evictions** for all tenants experiencing financial hardship during the pandemic.

## How are institutions supporting international students?



Australia's education providers, including our 43 universities, are responding to support students with a range of initiatives (including emergency bursaries, hardship funds, food banks, fee waivers and pastoral care) totalling more than \$145m. You can see daily updates and the latest list of commitments on the [Study Australia website](#).

## Support from States and Territories



States and Territories are committing additional funds to temporary workers and students through a range of complementary programs to Australian Government initiatives.

## Show your support



Join the #InThisTogether initiative and **share your pledge, commitment or services** you are offering to international students.

We are working together because we know we are all #InThisTogether. We stand united to support international students in our care at this time.



## How can international students stay informed?



The [Study Australia website](#) shares detailed updates from key agencies and works alongside [australia.gov.au](#) by providing tailored information to support international students.



The Australian Government has provided a dedicated email and hotline for international students at [international.students@dese.gov.au](mailto:international.students@dese.gov.au) and 1300 981 621 (9am to 5pm AEST, weekdays).



[studyaustralia.gov.au](http://studyaustralia.gov.au)

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