



# Legislative Council

Tuesday, 12 February 2019

Hon. Sue Ellery MLC

(Member for South Metropolitan)

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## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS — INDIA

*Statement by Minister for Education and Training*

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Minister for Education and Training)** [2.04 pm]:  
Madam President, thank you for your welcome back. I also extend my welcome back to everybody in the house.

I rise today to update members on a recent delegation to India to showcase Western Australia as an ideal location for international students to live and study. From 12 to 20 January, my parliamentary colleague Yaz Mubarakai, MLA, the member for Jandakot, and I visited Mumbai, New Delhi and Ahmedabad to meet with government ministers for education, labour and skill development and medical education; researchers; international and business schools; and universities. We want to expand our relationship with India and we want to encourage more Indian students to study in Western Australia to not only further their education but also increase the collaboration and research work between Western Australian and Indian universities.

The McGowan government made an election commitment to make international education one of our priorities, and in October last year we launched our landmark international education strategy, and last week StudyPerth launched the plan that details the activities to turn the strategy into action. Encouraging international students to choose Western Australia as an education destination is central to helping boost our economy and create jobs. The international education, training and research sector will help us to diversify our economy. We made a decision to focus particularly on our region, and that includes India. There is great enthusiasm in India about the opportunities studying in WA can offer.

As you know, Madam President, Western Australian and Indian families share more than just a passion for cricket—I could not have chosen a worse time to go because India had just won the series and people were keen to point that out to me!—they also have a passion for quality education. No matter what their area of interest—agribusiness, health, education, teaching, astronomy, earth sciences, business, engineering or tourism—there are opportunities for international students at our five universities. We are in the same time zone and we have a fantastic climate. On top of all that, we have outstanding universities. WA is open for business when it comes to international education.