



Government
of South Australia

TRS20D2747

Treasurer

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Mr Chris Picton MP
Member for Kaurana
Shop 9, 760 Grand Boulevard
SEAFORD MEADOWS SA 5169

shadowhealth@parliament.sa.gov.au

Chris,
Dear Mr Picton

APPLICATION UNDER THE *FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), dated 21 August 2020.

Your application seeks access to:

"Any documents (including but not limited to emails, minutes, contracts, briefings, letters, proposals, advice, invoices, quotes, notes) regarding the travel of international students to resume studies in South Australian universities, between 1 April 2020 to 21 August 2020."

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of my determination. An extensive search was conducted within this office. A total of 3 documents were identified as answering the terms of your application.

I grant you access in full to 3 documents; copies of which are enclosed.

Released in Full

Document 1 - 3

Documents 1 and 2 are media emails received by the Treasurer's Office, and Document 3 is an email regarding a Parliamentary Question without Notice that was tabled in the Legislative Council on the 23 July 2020.

Please note, in compliance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045 - *Disclosure Logs for Non-Personal Information Released through Freedom of Information* (PC045), the Department of Treasury and Finance is now required to publish a log of all non-personal information released under the Act.

In accordance with this Circular, any non-personal information determined for release as part of this application, may be published on the DTF website. A copy of PC045 can be found at the following address: <https://dpc.sa.gov.au/resources-and-publications/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>. Please visit the website for further information.

As I am determining this application as Principal Officer, section 29(6) of the Act does not provide for an internal review. If you are dissatisfied with my determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman.

Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. If you wish to seek a review, section 39(3) of the Act states you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving the determination.

If you require any further information, please contact Vicky Cathro on (08) 8226 9769.

Yours sincerely



Hon Rob Lucas MLC
Principal Officer

19 September 2020

RELEASE

DTF:Treasurer

From: mediaportal.au@isentia.com
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 6:41 AM
To: DTF:Treasurer
Subject: Mediaportal Alert - SA Treasurer - Press

MEDIAPORTAL ALERT SA Treasurer - Press



Adelaide Advertiser (5 items)



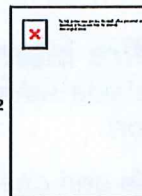
Student return set for success

18 Aug 2020 • [Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide](#) (General News)
 by [Claire Bickers](#) [Andrew Hough](#)

NICOLA Spurrier fully backed plans to bring 300 international students back to [South Australia](#) in a letter to Steven Marshall, [saying](#) it could be managed safely with "great success". In the July 29 letter, Professor Spurrier advised overseas students could [safely](#) return to [Adelaide](#) using the [same](#) health and police protocols "that were successfully adopted for the return and quarantine of Australian citizens following repatriation flights".

[Full text](#) • [Article PDF](#)

Brief: SA Treasurer - Press • ASR: AUD 3,674 • Page 7 •
 0 words • Photo: No • Type: News Item • Size: 247.00 cm²
 • Region: SA • Market: Australia • Item ID: 1318333228 •
 Sentiment: Neutral



Keywords: Adelaide(1), economy(1), SA(4), South Australia(1), South Australian(1)

Audience: 112,097 circulation



INTERNATIONAL BOOST TO OUR STATE

18 Aug 2020 • [Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide](#) (General News)
 by [Claire Bickers](#)

INTERNATIONAL students returning to [South Australia](#) will pump \$15m into the [economy](#) this year, according to Government estimates. But Bec Hardy Wines managing director Richard Dolan, who moved to [Adelaide](#) as a mature-age student from Britain in 2002, [says](#) the value goes beyond a dollar figure.

[Full text](#) • [Article PDF](#)

Brief: SA Treasurer - Press • ASR: AUD 7,691 • Page 7 •
 0 words • Photo: Yes • Type: News Item • Size: 517.00



cm² • Region: SA • Market: Australia • Item ID:
1318333229 • Sentiment: Neutral

Keywords: Adelaide(3), economy(3), Flinders(1), SA(8),
South Australia(1)

Audience: 112,097 circulation



Back students to create jobs and exports

18 Aug 2020 • [Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide](#) (Editorials)

RETURNING international students to South Australian universities is a critical first step in reopening the battered economy. The coronavirus-induced recession has shuttered businesses and crushed livelihoods. Young people and women have been particularly hurt by the economic crisis.

[Full text \(296 words / ~1 mins to read\)](#) • [Article PDF](#)

Brief: SA Treasurer - Press • ASR: AUD 2,588 • Page 18 •
296 words • Photo: No • Type: Editorial • Size: 174.00 cm²
• Region: SA • Market: Australia • Item ID: 1318334181 •
Sentiment: Neutral



Keywords: economic(1), economy(2), SA(4), South
Australian(1)

Audience: 112,097 circulation



Guilty plea to fire injury

18 Aug 2020 • [Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide](#) (General News)
by [Elizabeth Henson](#)

A BEACHSIDE cafe and one of its directors have pleaded guilty to work, health and safety breaches after an employee's face and hair caught fire in a shocking workplace incident in 2018. A 21-year-old casual employee at Royal Copenhagen Cafe in Brighton suffered serious burns to her face, neck and hands when she poured methylated spirits into an ethanol burner, causing a flashback flame.

[Full text \(397 words / ~2 mins to read\)](#) • [Article PDF](#)

Brief: SA Treasurer - Press • ASR: AUD 3,615 • Page 5 •
397 words • Photo: No • Type: News Item • Size: 243.00
cm² • Region: SA • Market: Australia • Item ID:
1318340684 • Sentiment: Neutral



Keywords: Employment(1), Health(4), Safety(4),
SafeWork SA(3), South Australian(1), Tribunal(2),
Work(5), workplace(1)

Audience: 112,097 circulation



Guilty plea to fire injury

18 Aug 2020 • [Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide](#) (Edition Changes)
by [Elizabeth Henson](#)

A BEACHSIDE cafe and one of its directors have pleaded guilty to **work health** and **safety** breaches after an employee's face and hair caught fire in a shocking **workplace** incident in 2018. A 21-year-old casual employee at Royal Copenhagen Cafe in Brighton suffered serious burns to her face, neck and hands when she poured methylated spirits into an ethanol burner, causing a flashback flame.

[Full text \(404 words / ~2 mins to read\)](#) • [Article PDF](#)

Brief: SA Treasurer - Press • ASR: AUD 3,659 • Page 5 • 404 words • Photo: Yes • Type: News Item • Size: 246.00 cm² • Region: SA • Market: Australia • Item ID: 1318458560 • Sentiment: Neutral

Keywords: Employment(1), Health(4), Safety(4), SafeWork SA(3), South Australian(1), Tribunal(2), Work(4), workplace(1)

Audience: 112,097 circulation



Border Watch (1 item)



Medical Medical treatment 'at risk'

18 Aug 2020 • [Border Watch, Mt Gambier](#) (General News)

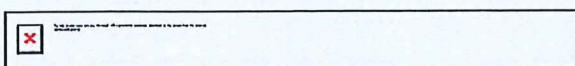
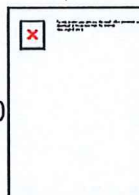
health concerns as virus restrictions cut access to Mount Gambier services
Dartmoor cancer patient raises RAQUEL MUSTILLO raquel@tbw.com.au
CHIEF OF STAFF A TERMINALLY ill Dartmoor man who accesses vital health services in Mount Gambier has said he will forgo medical treatment if he is required to travel to Portland or Ballarat ahead of the tightening border restrictions.

[Full text \(1055 words / ~5 mins to read\)](#) • [Article PDF](#)

Brief: SA Treasurer - Press • ASR: AUD 3,172 • Page 2 • 1055 words • Photo: Yes • Type: News Item • Size: 994.00 cm² • Region: SA • Market: Australia • Item ID: 1318381400 • Sentiment: Neutral

Keywords: Adelaide(2), economy(1), South Australia(7), South Australian(4)

Audience: 4,184 circulation



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18 AUG, 2020

Student return set for success

Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide

Government of
South Australia

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Student return set for success

**CLAIRE BICKERS,
ANDREW HOUGH**

NICOLA Spurrier fully backed plans to bring 300 international students back to South Australia in a letter to Steven Marshall, saying it could be managed safely with "great success".

In the July 29 letter, Professor Spurrier advised overseas students could safely return to Adelaide using the same health and police protocols "that were successfully adopted for the return and quarantine of Australian citizens following repatriation flights".

The letter also revealed the initial plan was to fly students back in two cohorts, on August 23 and 31, but logistics had pushed the flights back to September.

Prof Spurrier advised SA's current hotel quarantine ca-

capacity levels and resources had "not been reached and would allow for the safe arrival of these returning students".

"The pilot will be underpinned by SA Health's commitment to protect the South Australian community by ensuring quarantine protocols are strictly adhered to," she wrote.

"I am confident that, should commonwealth approval be obtained, that this pilot initiative can be delivered with great success and provide a significant boost to multiple sectors of the economy, including education, accommodation, food and transport services."

An SA Health spokesman backed the advice yesterday, saying: "We have been safely managing hundreds of returning Australians in our med-hotels since April and our quarantine process is very

stringent."

Eighty per cent of more than 16,000 respondents to an advertiser.com.au poll did not support bringing international students back to the state during the pandemic.

Opposition health spokesman Chris Picton said Labor backed international education as "vital" to the state's future, but did not support a trial to return students: "There are many families in SA who haven't seen loved ones, who haven't seen people that might have cancer or are having new babies interstate, and they're taking that on the chin ... this seems to be contradictory to that situation."

PAGE 18: EDITORIAL



18 AUG, 2020

INTERNATIONAL BOOST TO OUR STATE



Government of
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Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide

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INTERNATIONAL BOOST TO OUR STATE

CLAIRE BICKERS

INTERNATIONAL students returning to South Australia will pump \$15m into the economy this year, according to Government estimates.

But Bec Hardy Wines managing director Richard Dolan, who moved to Adelaide as a mature-age student from Britain in 2002, says the value goes beyond a dollar figure.

He said international students helped local businesses expand into overseas markets and brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the state, as well as injecting money into the economy through retail, rent and travel.

The SA wine company's export manager, Xianrui Zeng, is also a former international student from China, who opted to stay in SA, where he met his wife.

"To have somebody like Xianrui in our business, who assists us with an understanding of a different culture, who speaks fluent Mandarin; that is vitally important for wine businesses and all the agribusinesses in this state if we're going to connect with international markets," Mr Dolan said.

He understood community apprehension about overseas travellers returning, but backed SA's management of the pandemic to date.

International Education Association of Australia chief executive Phil Honeywood said the sector had needed to show "proof of life", as it was losing students to Canada and the UK.

"These students will not be costing the taxpayer a dollar and will actually be pumping money back in through rental accommodation, through food, entertainment, back into the Adelaide economy," Mr Honeywood said.

THE KEY QUESTIONS

Q Where will the students come from?

A They will fly out of Singapore but come from the Asian region. Precise details of their origin countries are not yet known. All three SA public universities - Adelaide, UniSA and Flinders - are involved.

Q Who will pay for their flights and quarantine?

A Students will pay for their own flights and quarantine or these will be covered by universities. Flight details are not certain. Premier Steven Marshall on Saturday said logistics were being finalised.

Q What is the expert health advice and risk assessment?

A Deputy chief public health officer Michael Cusack says the risk has been very carefully worked through. Most students will come from low-risk areas, he says, and SA has gained a lot of experience in managing hotel quarantine. The students will be going straight into hotel quarantine for two weeks, like repatriated Australians, before entering the general community.

Q Is this putting our state at risk when we've done a good job so far?

A SA has had international hotel arrivals for some months and authorities have ensured hotel capacity has been adequate, Dr Cusack says. The arrangements in hotels, he says, have been "very tight indeed".

Q Why can international students come to SA when the Victorian borders are closed and Australians are struggling to get back from overseas?

A Health authorities say they take as many repatriated Australians as they can depending on hotel capacity. The COVID-19 "bushfire" across the border is the major concern for authorities, in terms of generating "spotfires" in SA that erupt into outbreaks.

SEE THE FULL LIST OF
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
bit.ly/studentsqa



18 AUG, 2020

INTERNATIONAL BOOST TO OUR STATE

Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide



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Bec Hardy Wines managing director Richard Dolan and export manager Xianrui Zeng are both former international students who opted to stay in SA. Picture: Dean Martin



18 AUG, 2020

Back students to create jobs and exports

Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide



Page 1 of 1

The Advertiser

Back students to create jobs and exports

RETURNING international students to South Australian universities is a critical first step in reopening the battered economy.

The coronavirus-induced recession has shuttered businesses and crushed livelihoods. Young people and women have been particularly hurt by the economic crisis.

Universities have been hard hit. Income from the overseas student sector, which usually generates \$2bn in exports for SA every year, has plummeted. Who knows when the sector will fully recover.

Some people are worried that reopening borders to foreign students might trigger a COVID-19 outbreak.

Others are frustrated that their friends or family cannot easily return from overseas, or at all from Victoria.

Yet this pilot program has passed stringent state and federal guidelines. Chief public health officer Nicola Spurrier has given the green light. Under her stewardship, SA has been a world leader in tackling COVID-19. Her advice should be respected.

Labor health and well-being spokesman Chris Picton asked yesterday why the government was easing international restrictions at the same time as closing interstate borders. It is not an unreasonable point.

Border communities are hurting badly and feel a sledgehammer is being used to crack a walnut.

But these are two very separate issues.

More than ever, SA needs a thriving tertiary sector to kindle creativity, innovation, skills and research for the jobs of the future. We must start opening up our economy to kickstart recovery and capitalise on SA's success in beating back this deadly virus.

If we get the higher education play right, then that and manufacturing are the keys to a prosperous future.

Border communities are being hamstrung by bans, caused by what have been exploding numbers in Victoria. This pain must be short-lived and the borders reopened as soon as the Victorian outbreak is controlled; something declining numbers suggest is close.

DTF:Treasurer

From: andrew.cussen@isentia.com on behalf of Adelaide Isentia <adelaide@isentia.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 9:07 AM
To: Adelaide Isentia
Subject: Audio: International Students Discussion
Attachments: ABC Radio Adelaide - International Students Aug 19.mp3

Good morning,

Please find attached the audio of this morning's discussion of international students returning to South Australian universities, featuring Opposition Leader Peter Malinauskas followed by Group of Eight CEO Vicki Thomson.

Kind regards,

Andy Cussen
Account Executive – SA / NT

t. +61 8 8132 4800
a. Level 2, 143 Hutt St, Adelaide, 5000

isentia.com

Tonkin, Kate (DTF)

From: Ministerial Offices <no-reply@sharepointonline.com>
Sent: Monday, 10 August 2020 11:22 AM
To: Tonkin, Kate (DTF)
Subject: Questions on Notice - International Students

📄 International Students has been changed



Tonkin, Kate (DTF)

10/08/2020 11:21 AM

Title International Students

Date Asked 2/07/2020

Answer Due 1/08/2020

House Legislative Council

Question Type Question Without Notice

Asked by

Asked of

Minister Responsible

Status: ~~Approved~~ Tabled Edited

Question Text how many of these students are from Hong Kong? Given Australia is now drafting a safe haven plan for those students in Australia, from Hong Kong, what is the state government doing to support that?

Response "I have been advised the following:

There are currently 1642 students from Hong Kong enrolled in South Australian educational institutions across all sectors of which 277 are currently outside Australia and potentially attempting to return.

The Department for Trade and Investment has been leading work with SA Health, SA Police and a range of stakeholders to develop a pilot program for the safe and responsible return of international students from many markets including Hong Kong.

Any pilot program will follow the guidelines set down by the Australian Government, SA Health and SA Police to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the arriving students and the South Australian community.

Such a pilot program would be dependent on our federal colleagues for border and visa access and controls and a commitment from our

education institutions to ensure they and their students will strictly adhere to the conditions of the pilot."

Progress	Changed so that the Treasurer is now responsible for tabling and Minister	Edited
Notes:	Patterson is responsible for developing the answer.	

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