

Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security *Review of the Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2026*

3 August 2026

1. ATN member universities are by far the leaders in delivering offshore education

ATN member universities have the largest offshore campus network of any Australian university group. We deliver Australian degrees in 11 countries at more than 26 offshore campuses and locations.

Our member universities are by far the sector leaders in delivering offshore education in the national interest. We have more than double the number of offshore enrolments, for example, compared to the Group of Eight universities (31,000 for ATN compared to 13,000 for Go8, TCSI data year 2024).

Offshore education is an important aspect of ATN member universities' strategies. We maintain balanced and diversified onshore international student percentages. On average, 24% of ATN member universities' onshore students are international, compared to 40% for Go8 (TCSI data year 2024). This allows us to afford onshore domestic and international students the benefits of a diverse study experience without tipping the scales too far.

ATN member universities have forged genuine partnerships with international partners which require time and sustained commitment to build. ATN member universities' offshore network is primarily across the Indo-Pacific and is grounded in shared interests and mutual benefit. This longstanding network has deepened Australia's integration and relevance within Southeast Asia. Our partnerships strengthen diplomatic capital in a time of increased trade exposure and security interests.

2. ATN supports the Bill and suggests proceeding with caution regarding impacts on overseas campuses Australian universities have a strong track record in lifting access for regional and socially and economically disadvantaged students. That is a strength to build on.

ATN Universities welcomes the proposed six-month transition period regarding the extension of the Scheme to arrangements entered into through overseas campuses of Australian universities (Part 16). We suggest proceeding with caution and close consultation with the sector regarding changes that may increase administrative burden on those with international campuses.

Given the range of legal, governance and partnership structures through which overseas campuses operate, clear implementation guidance will be important to support consistent compliance with the

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new obligations. ATN Universities would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on this matter. ATN member university activities offshore are predominantly the delivery of undergraduate degrees which are low risk arrangements. ATN member universities postgraduate teaching, research and industry engagement comply local policies and regulatory requirements. ATN member universities manage their intellectual property transfers with overseas campuses.

3. Conclusion

ATN Universities would welcome the opportunity to further engage with the Committee to enable the Bill to be passed in a version which assures the policy intent – to manage emerging national security risks – without impacting the diplomatic capital of a strong international education system. ATN Universities request the opportunity to appear at a hearing, to speak to the value of international education and offshore campuses in contributing to our nation’s security, productivity, and resilience in our economy and society.

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