



McGowan Government continue to miss the target

What a mess the WA government have made of the International student market in Western Australia.

Since taking government in March 2017 they have consistently made public remarks and policy decisions that have devastated an industry worth \$2 billion a year and over 2000 jobs to Western Australia annually.

They initially abolished Perth as a region for the RSM permanent visa scheme making it harder for employees to seek skilled labour when they had proven to the WA state government that they were unable to find such skills in WA.

They followed this up by virtually closing the State Migration program through slashing the occupations available for State Sponsorship. To the point where in 2017/2018 WA did not sponsor even one skilled migrant.

Now they have introduced a graduate migration program in a desperate attempt to claw back the losses we have suffered through International students choosing to study in the Eastern States rather than in WA.

Let's be clear , the international student market is massively beneficial to WA. Every skilled migrant moving to WA on average creates 1.6 jobs for our economy. The premier himself has stated that every 3 international students creates 1 job for the WA economy.

So far the McGowan government's international student policies have been disastrous. The national student numbers from January 2017 to December 2018 grew by 22%, WA was a miserly 5%. That has cost the WA economy and our educational institutions over \$530 million already

In the 4 months since the WA state migration opened up in August 2018 the story is even worse. The national figures on new student visa applications have grown 34%. While in Western Australia it has grown a miserly 1%.

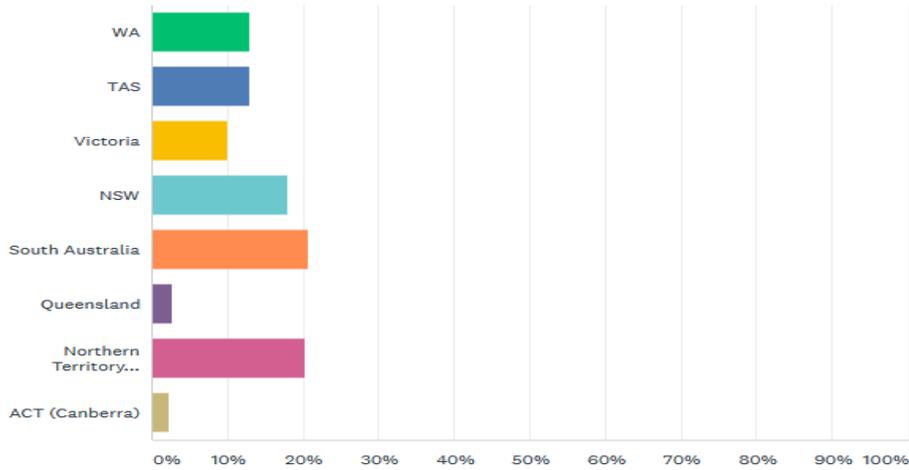
We wanted to know why and so we surveyed nearly 200 international students in WA to examine the factors THEY consider are important, and how they think the WA government has failed them and the industry

The majority of these students are at bachelor and masters degree level in fields such as Engineering, Nursing, Information Technology and other areas WA desperately wants in the future.

The average amount spent by each student and their family was \$83,000 on education fees and \$62,000 for living costs. So \$145,000 per student. That is close to \$29 million to our economy just from these 200 WA students in the survey

They gave the following insights.

- A massive 68% of them said the biggest deciding factor for where to study was their permanent visa options. The next biggest factor was employment opportunities at just 17%.
- Given WA's decision to only sponsor 800 people through their state migration program, if they could rechoose where to study only 13% would choose Western Australia. In fact only 10% would recommend WA to family and friends.
- When asked if a marketing campaign promoting the lifestyle, climate and qualities of universities and colleges in WA would change their mind about their study or recommending WA, a massive 77% said NO.
- When asked how many student graduates should WA sponsor the majority said 3,500. The states of South Australia, Victoria and NSW by comparison already sponsor more than this amount.
- As WA is now an area of low population growth it may be possible for students who study at least 2 years in Perth to receive an extra 5 points in the points test. When asked if the WA state government were to negotiate this on behalf of WA with the Federal government 75% of students said that would sway their decision and they would remain here and recommend WA to family and friends.



Where a WA international Student would study if they could rechoose their state/territory

▼ Cost of your course	11.88% 19
▼ Cost of living	1.18% 2
▼ Potential permanent residence options	67.68% 111
▼ Low crime rates	5.92% 10
▼ Job opportunities	17.82% 31

Most important factor in choosing which state to study in

We asked these students to provide any additional comments and below is a summary of the main factors they think would help them choose to study in WA...

Generate faith that the WA government will not let us down by putting impossible conditions on 190 sponsorship

Start 5 points extra for regional area study and also start non pro rata occupation 489 or 190 sponsorship for cooks and chefs

State Migration program should be fair enough in WA. Even though the government knows that economy is not so good here, asking graduates to get a 12 month offer letter for state migration is bad. Instead they can ask for more scores in English tests which is in graduates hand.

Rethink the nomination process. I have a genuine application with 75 individual points but forced to move out from WA due to no visa even my employer was not happy when I left. My brother is permanent resident and running a business in Perth, he also moved with me and had 3 employees working for him, now they are jobless.

WA should start giving incentives for studying in Perth like other states are doing.

More state sponsorships, remove 1 year experience for state sponsorship.

Please remove the condition of 12 months contract job offer. No one is giving us a single job without permanent residency.

Wave off the job offer requirement.

Consider perth as regional state again

Include diploma (tafe) study amongst WA graduate sponsorship

I have already got WA 190 invitation, and I struggled hard to get 12 months contract. And now my invitation is withdrawn. I am still left with no future at the moment. WA should take initiative like other many states, which in fact benefit WA international students. Thanks

WA should remove the job offer requirement for 190.

Being one of the remotest city in the world, WA should encourage more people to study and eventually live here. Else, in 10 years time this will have an devastating effect on economy which are already seeing a falling in the house prices which depends on the rental demand, which is low due to less people coming to WA, less flights to and from WA.

Void job offer letter because it takes time to get job here in WA

Give 5 points for regional area

They must think about trade people and trade occupation list if they want more students in their State.

Why do we have to provide skill related job contract? It is very difficult to get skill related job because most of the employer look for Australian or permanent residents, they require Australian work experience. Most of the employer don't understand about different types of visa. WA govt. should take out employment contract/12 month Australian work experience, if they want to attract more international graduates. I have recommended my two friends to study in South Australia instead of Studying in Perth.

Give international students an extra 5 points for studying in Perth and remove the 12 month job requirement for regional 190 sponsorship

If government award 5 extra points to students for studying in Perth and take off the condition of getting a job letter for masters student than there will be more students coming to Perth, which will help the economy of WA.

WA is a great place to live in as compare to Melbourne and Sydney but the government here isn't quite concerned about the efforts that international students make to stay here and enjoy the Australian Economy. I would suggest the state government to bring Perth back to the regional area and broaden their horizon for the international students so that people who are shifting to other states could feel a secure future here.

The 12 months job in the skill is unreasonable - graduates need work experience before those jobs are offered to us

We have been in this industry for well over 20 years and we feel we are very well qualified to know what students want. That is born about through the comments from our surveyed students also. If the WA government is really serious, and I mean REALLY serious about turning around this dramatic deterioration in WA international student numbers it needs to stop these pathetic tokenism \$3 million dollar marketing campaigns (remember 77% said it would have no effect). Instead it needs to do 4 things

- ❖ **Increase the number of sponsored WA graduates to 3500 (similar to South Australia, Victoria and NSW)**
- ❖ **Add trades and diploma level occupations to the graduate skilled list**
- ❖ **Replace the 12 months job offer requirement in their occupation to being a 12 months job offer in ANY occupation (as it is too difficult to get such skilled work straight after graduation and more importantly when they do not yet have a permanent visa)**
- ❖ **Canvass strongly for Perth to be considered a regional area for 5 additional study points**

Then WA will see in the next 12 months a serious turn around in new enrolments.

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