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Dear

Welcome to first edition of the StudyNT eNews for 2016 and congratulations to all the Northern Territory education providers who welcomed a growing number of international students in 2016.

At the annual welcome for international students at Parliament House hosted by the Minister for Education we were excited to launch two new international student initiatives - a StudyNT Student Ambassador Program and Student Photo Competition.

The photos capture a wonderful perspective of students' first experiences of living in Darwin with \$3000 worth of travel coupon prizes thanks to Tourism NT. Congratulations to our winners.

We are also proud to present the first group of [StudyNT Student Ambassadors](#), 16 amazing students, both international and local, who have been selected to share their experiences of studying in Australia's Northern Territory.

We encourage you to read their stories and view the photos.

StudyNT has been pleased to work with the NT Chamber of Commerce to develop the first [International Student Handbook](#) to assist students settle into life in the NT. The advertising prospectus for the 2017 edition will be open shortly.

The Northern Territory has a great story to tell and the [nine new student videos](#) share unique perspectives on living and studying in Darwin.

Enjoy these stories and we look forward to sharing more developments during the year ahead.

**Mark Darby**  
**General Manager, StudyNT**

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## Darwin to host 2016 Council of International Students Australia (CISA) Conference

We are pleased that Darwin has been selected as host of the 2016 Council of International Students Australia (CISA)

Conference, 5-8 July. [Registrations are now open.](#)

CISA is the leading international student run organisation which speaks for over 600,000 international students studying in Australia. StudyNT is excited to be working with CISA to develop an engaging and welcoming conference program.

The conference brings together international student representatives from across Australia to share their stories and experiences of studying in Australia. It will also welcome education, government and business representatives to engage with students and work to continue to improve international education and the student experience in Australia.

The Northern Territory government, through StudyNT, local education providers, businesses and particularly local students look forward to welcoming delegates. Local sponsors are supporting the conference to ensure delegates enjoy what for many is their first experience of Australia's Northern Territory.

Please contact [StudyNT](#) if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities.

StudyNT will ensure as many locally based students, Australian and international, have the opportunity to attend their first ever CISA conference. We also hope that based on this wonderful experience Darwin will establish the first ever Northern Territory chapter of the Council of International Students Australia and provide a Territory voice going forward.



## NT Welcome to International Students

Over 220 international students were welcomed to the Northern Territory at Parliament House in Darwin on 24 February 2016. Attorney-General Elferink on behalf of the Minister for Education, the Hon Peter Chandler MLA

welcomed high school, vocational and English language training, and Charles Darwin University students, encouraging them to make the most of their time in the Territory.

VIPs at the welcome included:

- His Honour the Honourable John Hardy OAM, Administrator of the Northern Territory
- The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Darwin, Katrina Fong Lim
- Consuls of Indonesia, Timor-Leste and the Philippines
- Professor Simon Maddocks, Vice-Chancellor of Charles Darwin University

Representatives of the Northern Territory's multicultural community were also introduced and the students encouraged to become engaged in local community events and activities.

Mr James Parfitt welcomed students to the lands of the Larrakia people and talked about the importance of knowledge and culture. He suggested "when you're studying here in Darwin:

*Do not just go there to look, go there to see;  
Do not just go there to listen, go there to hear;  
Do not just go there to learn, go there to understand;  
See the pathway to opportunity before you,  
Hear the cues that unlock the puzzles of tomorrow,  
Understand that it is you who will help determine your futures;  
Because education is knowledge and knowledge is power.'*

Students and education providers found it a very positive celebration and welcome to the Northern Territory. The Minister and dignitaries, along with the Territory Wildlife Park and their animal friends were enthusiastically captured for photo opportunities by the students.

A [gallery of photographs](#) of the event are available for free download.



## Snap a pic, share and win – first impressions of Darwin.

StudyNT with support from Tourism NT ran a photo competition where international students posted at #StudyNT a photo of unique, creative and fun moments

showing how they are embracing the Northern Territory lifestyle and study opportunities

There were some great photos of students getting out and about to Litchfield National Park, the Northern Territory Government's Welcome to International Students at Parliament House, and trying the delights of new and different foods (including fish and chips, and chicken parmigiana) with their new friends.

Congratulations to all the [winners](#) of the StudyNT Photo Competition, particularly Abhikl, the first prize winner, who continues to post outstanding images and captions of his experiences in the NT. Here's Abhikl's winning entry which has the caption "Addicted to the sunset here...after a hard day at the uni I just come and relax."

With thanks to Tourism NT for sponsoring the prizes of \$3500 of Tourism Top End travel vouchers.



## Home and Housed: international student accommodation options

At StudyNT's Home and Housed seminar, UniLodge Chief Executive Peter Bates announced it will convert up to 40 beds in its Casuarina facility to accommodate international secondary students. UniLodge is working through the additional duty of care and pastoral care required for students who are under 18 years of age and will announce when the facility is available for bookings.

The need for a private sector homestay coordinator was identified at the seminar together with the private rental market, through the Real Estate Institute of the NT (REINT), having international student-friendly properties and landlords. The [International Education and Training Industry Group](#) will form a sub-group of interested accommodation providers to ensure sufficient accommodation to meet the needs of the growing number of international students.

The Industry Group had identified accommodation as a significant consideration in growing the number of international students choosing to study and live in the NT. As part of Open Territory, StudyNT hosted a full day seminar, *Home and Housed: international student accommodation options*. In addition to Peter Bates, speakers included; the Hon Phil Honeywood, CEO, International Education Association of Australia; Quentin Killian, CEO, Real Estate Institute of the NT (REINT); and Sonia Ortego, founder and MD, Global Experience, and an expert in homestay. The morning session focused on private sector and purpose built

accommodation whilst the afternoon examined ways to increase homestay options in the Northern Territory.



## StudyNT Student Awards Now Open

In recognition of the importance of the International Education and Training Sector to the NT the [2016 Chief Minister's Export and Industry Awards](#) programme has two Territory-specific awards:

- the [StudyNT 2016 International Business Student Award](#): open to all students (ie, domestic and international) in all education sectors studying a course with an international business component and
- the [StudyNT 2016 International Student of the Year Award](#): open to international students studying in the Northern Territory who have demonstrated leadership and excellence in their endeavours and contribution to NT's business community.

The Awards close on **12 August 2016** and winners will be announced as part of the Chief Minister's NT Export and Industry Awards ceremony on 22 September 2016.

## Key Dates

5 - 8 July 2016: [Council of International Students Australia \(CISA\) Conference, Darwin](#)

25 - 26 August 2016: [Australian Council for Private Education and Training National Conference](#).

[Hobart](#)

18-21 October 2016: [Australian International Education Conference, Melbourne](#)

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