The March 2006 data show steady growth overall in Australia’s international education market with a year-to-date increase of 8.2% in enrolments and 9.3% in commencements. Although it is still too early in the 2006 calendar year to predict a trend for the year, data at this point in time is tending to mirror the growth in 2005. Overall growth in the VTE sector continues to be stronger than any other sector, with increases in both enrolments (21.2%) and commencements (22.6%). ‘Business Administration, Management’ and ‘Services, Hospitality, Transport’ fields of study attract two in three enrolments and commencements in VTE.

Increases in enrolments and commencements in this sector occurred from China, India, Republic of Korea (South), Thailand, Brazil and Bangladesh.

Good growth was recorded for the higher education sector - enrolments and commencements were up by 5.4% and 6.1% respectively. China and India continue to be the two largest markets with strong growth overall. The ELICOS sector recorded good growth in both enrolments (16.0%) and commencements (14.0%). China and the Republic of Korea (South) are the largest markets in the sector. The two markets exhibiting the strongest growth in the sector are Republic of Korea (South) (24.5% in enrolments and 19.4% in commencements) and Brazil (81.2% and 70.0%).

The schools sector recorded a decline in enrolments (-6.6%) and a small rise in commencements (0.7%). The Republic of Korea (South) and Vietnam, the second and fifth largest markets in the sector, recorded good positive growth in both enrolments and commencements.

The Top 5 nationalities contribute 54% of Australia’s enrolments in all sectors.