

Australia ranks for safety

“40 per cent ticked Australia as the safest”

Australia still ranks number one for international student safety, according to a global survey of more than 6000 students.

Despite media coverage here and overseas of violent attacks on Indian students, nearly 40 per cent of respondents ticked Australia as the safest place when asked to choose from a list of major English-language education countries.

Indian students were less convinced, but still some 26 per cent surveyed ranked Australia number one for safety, ahead of Britain on 20 per cent, Canada 20 per cent, New Zealand 13 per cent and the USA on 5 per cent.

The survey of students from eight countries was conducted during September and October by IDP Education, one of Australia's

biggest international student recruitment companies.

Australia also scored highest on access to student visas and permanent residency.

On best Government policies to protect international students, Australia won 19 per cent of the Indian vote, followed by the USA 12 per cent, Britain 11 per cent, Canada 8 per cent and New Zealand 2 per cent.

“These results are very encouraging in the light of recent challenges to Australia's reputation as a quality, safe, and good value provider of education to Indian students,” said IDP Education chief executive Tony Pollock.

“We are seeing the benefits of the solid work that has gone in over time in building our reputation among Indian students, graduates and their families, as well as the work done recently by Government and education bodies to reassure them.”

Indian students also ranked

Australia the clear number one for access to permanent residency, with 47 per cent nominating Australia, followed by Canada 16 per cent, New Zealand 14 per cent, the USA 5 per cent and Britain on 2 per cent. The finding on immigration follows a call this week by leading demographer Bernard Salt of KPMG for Australians to “put up welcome signs” to international students, because those who stayed on here after study made ideal immigrants and were vital to Australia's economic future.

On a city by city break-up in the survey Melbourne and Sydney ranked high for big city, multi-cultural flavour, while Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth ranked high on affordability, cleanliness and being green.

The IDP research surveyed students from China, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong.



Rowers make history

One hundred and fifty rowers across fifty boats took to the Yarra River early on a September morning as part of the Melbourne University Boat Club's 150 anniversary celebrations.

Established in 1859, the boat club is the oldest rowing club in Australia, with a long and successful history.

Most recently the club reached the semi finals of the Temple Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta in Oxford. The club was also the home of eight Olympians from Australia's Beijing rowing team, including silver medalists in the Men's A Four, Cameron McKenzie-McHarg and James Marburg. 

Photo by Edward Hodgson

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