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A Message from the President – Season’s Greetings

As we wrap up another big year, I’d like to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to our ISANA community. Your commitment, generosity, and passion for supporting international students continue to inspire everything we do.

Throughout the year, ISANA remained focused on strong governance, sector leadership, advocacy, and building capability across our profession. Thanks to your support, ISANA continues to be a respected and influential voice in international education, and one that truly reflects the needs of practitioners and students alike.

A Year of Collaboration and Progress

Our National Council worked closely throughout the year to ensure stability, collaboration, and alignment across the association. Regular meetings supported branch activity and national priorities, and in June we came together for a dedicated strategy session to reflect on where the sector is heading and how ISANA can best support members into the future. These conversations are already shaping exciting work ahead.

Connecting, Representing and Advocating

I was proud to represent ISANA at the Australian International Education Conference (AIEC), where we strengthened partnerships, connected with colleagues from around the world, and contributed to important conversations about student wellbeing, workforce sustainability, and sector reform.

One of the highlights of the year was ISANA's involvement in supporting the establishment of the International Student Representative Council (ISRC Australia). This important initiative helps ensure international student voices are heard nationally, and ISANA was pleased to contribute our experience and values to its development.

Learning, Sharing and Growing Together

Professional development continued to be a cornerstone of ISANA's work in 2025.

Throughout the year, we delivered a strong national program of webinars, workshops, and capability-building sessions designed to support practitioners across Australia and at all stages of their careers.

Our 2025 professional development program included sessions on:

- International Education Essentials and the effective use of ISANA resources
- Sustainable student support practices and moving from reactive responses to strong foundations
- Understanding ESOS and PRISMS to support compliance and student success
- Foundations of student advising and professional capability development
- The role of AI in international education, including pre-departure engagement and academic integrity
- Enhancing communication and understanding in multicultural contexts
- Preventing and addressing violence against women international students
- Wellbeing for both international students and the staff who support them
- A joint ISANA & IEAA U18 Masterclass — *Safe, Supported and Strong*

These sessions were delivered through a combination of national webinars, branch-led initiatives, and collaborative partnerships, ensuring consistent and accessible professional learning opportunities across all states and territories.

We also celebrated the success of ISANA's 34th Annual Conference in Adelaide in December 2024 — a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, learn, and share together.

Looking Ahead: ISANA Conference 2026

Following extensive consultation and reflection on sector pressures, the National Council made the decision to move the ISANA Annual Conference from December to May, beginning in 2026, more information will be shared at the beginning of the new year. This change is designed to better align with sector workloads, planning cycles, and practitioner

availability, allowing more members to attend, engage, and gain value from the conference experience.

The theme of the ISANA Conference 2026 will be, ***Resilient Futures: Leading International Education Through Transformation and Global Uncertainty.***

International education is experiencing rapid change, shaped by global instability, technological acceleration, workforce disruption, regulatory reform, and evolving student expectations. In 2026, ISANA has a critical opportunity to lead a national conversation on how institutions, practitioners, and systems can respond proactively, collaboratively, and with confidence.

The *Resilient Futures* theme positions ISANA as a forward-looking leader in a sector that must adapt quickly while maintaining its core commitment to student wellbeing, inclusion, community, and academic integrity.

The conference will explore key streams that reflect the most pressing and emerging priorities across international education:

- Resilience, crisis preparedness, and sustainable practice
- Technology, AI, and the human future of education
- Innovation in academic and student services
- Workforce capability, professional identity, and leadership
- Quality, regulation, and systems leadership
- Student safety, inclusion, and social justice
- Community, belonging, and identity in a changing world
- Global mobility, employability, and future-focused partnerships

Through these streams, the 2026 conference will strengthen ISANA's national leadership role, support practitioner capability-building, foster cross-sector collaboration, and elevate critical discussions around student experience, safety, and wellbeing. It will also provide a powerful platform for ISANA to contribute to national policy dialogue and help shape the future direction of international education in Australia.

Working Together for Students

ISANA continued to play an active role in policy and advocacy discussions on student safety, wellbeing, accommodation, and institutional responsibility. Alongside this, we developed and shared practical tools and resources to support consistent, evidence-

informed practice across the sector. Strong partnerships with government, community organisations, peak bodies, and sector leaders remain central to this work.

With Thanks

I would like to sincerely thank our National Council, branch committees, volunteers, partners, and members for everything you have contributed this year. Your time, expertise, and care make an enormous difference and continue to strengthen ISANA's impact across the international education sector.

My special thanks go to our National Council members — Bronwyn Gilson, Angela Leota, Joe Hernandez, Amy Choo, Jen Walsh, Kashif Chauhan, Andy Ng, Leah Bonfilli, Tash Pressley, and Param Arputhanathan — for your leadership, professionalism, and dedication throughout the year.

We also warmly thank and farewell our outgoing Council members — Jen Walsh, Bronwyn Gilson, Joe Hernandez, Leah Bonfilli, Natasha Pressley, and Param Arputhanathan. Your contributions have helped shape ISANA into the strong organisation it is today, and we are deeply grateful for the commitment, insight, and legacy you leave behind.

Welcoming New Leaders Across ISANA

As we look ahead to the new year, I am delighted to share that ISANA will be welcoming new members joining our National Council and branch leadership teams, including Eve Ollerenshaw, Khim Gautam, Betty Lui, Ruby Lee, Nabin Shahi, and Dewi Puspasari Ribeiro. These appointments bring fresh perspectives, energy, and expertise that will further strengthen ISANA's work both nationally and locally.

We will formally introduce our new Council members and branch leaders in our January member update, with profiles also shared on the ISANA website and across our social media channels. I look forward to working closely with our incoming leaders and thank everyone who has stepped forward to serve and support our community.

Wishing You a Wonderful Festive Season

As the year comes to a close, I wish you a joyful, safe, and well-earned break with family and friends. Thank you for the important work you do every day in supporting international students and strengthening our sector. I look forward to continuing this journey together in the new year.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and successful New Year.

Warm regards,

Annette Kalczyńska
National President, ISANA

Your Membership Status

Tee Shirt Size	Small
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ISANA Website Members Area

All ISANA Members have access to the resources found on the ISANA website's **Members** area: <https://isana.org.au/members/>

If you have trouble accessing this, please contact the office by reply email or isana@isana.org.au.

ISANA Office Holiday

The ISANA Office will close at 4pm on Thursday, 18 December 2025 and reopen on Tuesday, 6 January 2026.

