SOCIAL INCOHESION... (continued)

It’s time for an alliance of progressive individuals and groups to work together to put programs in place to enhance the social engagement of international students, to foster social cohesion and to put pressure on governments at state and national levels to get them to face up to their responsibilities.

It’s probably also time for us to institute an Australia wide “International Education Day” to engage with the Australian community and to assist community understanding about the value and the impact of international education.

And it’s past time for a forward looking industry development authority to be established, to give fearless, independent advice to government on the strategic directions and future needs of the industry and its impact on the broader Australian community.

The Board will consider these matters when it meets on 11 February for a one-day strategic planning day. It’s important we get your input into the Board’s thinking.

Please send your feedback and any suggested initiatives you believe the Association should consider taking on the matters raised in this article to Dennis Murray at: execdirector@ieaa.org.au

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Welcome to the first VISTA for 2010, a year that is likely to pose as many challenges to international education as 2009.

The fallout from international student security issues continues while we await the outcomes of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) International Student Strategy and the Baird review of ESOS.

Austrade takes on its new role mid-year, adding to the complexity of the numerous federal and state departments involved in international education.

For the Association, we look forward to continuing to work with our European colleagues following the joint seminar held in Sydney last October, and have commenced planning for a similar event with colleagues from the USA later this year.

We will continue our work with peak bodies aimed achieving a united voice of matters crucial to the future of international education, and work with government as best we can to achieve positive outcomes from policy deliberations.

Most importantly, we will continue to work to meet the needs of IEAA members. Your responses to our member survey will be important to shaping our activities during 2010 and beyond, so please let us know your thoughts about how IEAA is working for you and on your behalf.

Best wishes for a successful and harmonious year,

Stephen Connelly
President