I attended the recent NAFSA conference for the first time since 2008. I won't be leaving it that long before I attend my next one. I was impressed by the overall conference organisation, the line up of speakers, the Australian booth and the quality of interactions over the three days I was there. NAFSA President Meredith McQuaide was a great host to international association representatives and is planning to attend AIEC in October, so we will be able to return the favour. The Network of International Education Associations met during the NAFSA week, as it does at each NAFSA and EAIE conference, and discussed approaches to planning, themes and issue identification at the various association conferences currently being planned. This is a collaborative group and its approach counters the arguments from some quarters that the conferences are not internationalised enough or appear to be too regionally or locally focussed.

Submissions to the Chaney review are in and we await outcomes and responses. Delegates at NAFSA were interested to hear of the review and the objective to develop a national strategy for international education, so the world, not just Australia, is watching. A comprehensive strategy, properly resourced and with a coherent implementation plan, is a great opportunity to place Australia at the forefront of education internationalisation globally.

One thing we should be considering is a reprise of the study of appetites and capacities of Australian universities to enrol increasing numbers of international students. This would be interesting in light of: two recent British Council reports (The Shape of Things to Come: Global Trends and Emerging Opportunities to 2022; and STUDENT INSIGHT HOT TOPICS - An examination of host destinations from a student perspective); the uncapped domestic student enrolment environment; and should consider impact on other sectors. A companion piece could examine future trends in international student enrolments unrelated to university studies as a destination. These would be two large pieces of research, highly relevant to strategy development over the next ten years. Any takers?

Finally, I echo Sue Blundell's congratulations to Chris Bundesen on her recent Queen's Birthday honour.

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