

Dear Sir

I just met with your Mr Wells in Perth to discuss the FTA with China and the issue of barriers to trade in the education and training sector. Mr Wells suggested I send this email to put my issue to DFAT formerly.

Whilst Australia attracts large numbers of Chinese students to Australia to study, you will find that the major part of the interest rests with higher education and related educational pathways.

Whilst there is significant interest in China with regards to Vocational Education and Training (VET), our success to date as been hampered by the lack of recognition in China of Australian VET qualifications. This needs attention as part of the FTA negotiations.

I would suggest that agreement is reached between the Australian and Chinese Governments on establishing a process for achieving mutual recognition of qualifications in the VET sector.

I would be grateful if you would give this suggestion consideration. I will also email this to Margaret Fanning, Executive Director of TAFE Directors Australia who is based in Canberra. I am sure Margaret would be willing to assist in any follow up discussions. I would also be glad to assist further if required.

Regards,

Jeff Gunningham
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