

# Media Release

## Mr Danny Pearson MP

Minister for Transport Infrastructure  
Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop  
Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC  
Acting Treasurer  
Acting Minister for Economic Growth  
Acting Minister for Industrial Relations



Friday, 4 October 2024

## CELEBRATING VICTORIA'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Outstanding international students who have made a lasting impact in the Victorian community have been honoured at this year's Victorian International Education Awards.

Acting Minister for Economic Growth Danny Pearson today congratulated the seven winners of the prestigious awards who were recognised for their exceptional achievements and contributions.

The awards celebrate the significant value international students bring to Victoria, including to the state's multicultural community, critical research areas, local talent pool and economy.

This year featured student applicants across 54 different nationalities, showcasing the diversity of Victoria's education sector and how international students enhance the state's connection with communities across the world.

The Premier's Award for International Student of the Year was awarded to Lara Salaysay, an environment and sustainability student at Monash University.

Lara is a climate change advocate, contributing to the Victorian Energy Jobs plan and international climate forums. She is also a cultural leader in her community, serving as Vice President for the Filipino-Australian Student Council of Victoria.

Victoria's diversity was strengthened by more than 235,000 international students from around 175 countries in 2023. International students generated \$14.8 billion for the state's economy last year, supporting more than 63,000 local jobs.

Melbourne retained the title of Australia's best student city this year by global higher education ranking specialist Quacquarelli Symonds.

The Labor Government is ensuring Victoria continues to be Australia's number one destination for students with the \$5 million *Yes to International Students Fund*, supporting the state's universities and TAFEs to take their education offerings to the world.

The Labor Government is also ensuring international student graduates have every opportunity to live and work in regional Victoria through the Skilled Work Regional visa in 2024-25. This initiative will enhance career pathways for graduates and help meet workforce demands in regional Victoria.

To see all award winners and finalists, visit [studymelbourne.vic.gov.au](https://studymelbourne.vic.gov.au).

### Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Economic Growth Danny Pearson

*"Congratulations to all our incredible student winners and finalists – their achievements and contributions go far beyond the classroom."*

*"International students drive innovation and economic growth in Victoria – their skills, knowledge, and diversity enrich our communities and boost local economies right across the state."*

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