

## 'Increase in International Students welcome trend'

---

**Education New Zealand: Media Release 07/06/07**

'The increase in the number of international students in New Zealand schools is a very welcome trend and demonstrates that our system still has a lot to offer' says Robert Stevens, Chief Executive of Education New Zealand. 'After several years of declining international rolls in schools, the upward trend shows that the hard work and investment undertaken by schools and stakeholders is reaping some reward'.

Robert Stevens was commenting on figures just released by the Ministry of Education which show that for the March 2007 Roll Returns, the number of international students enrolled in New Zealand schools was up 8%, climbing from 9,701 in March 2006 to 10,476 this year.

'The global competition for international students is fierce' says Robert Stevens. 'Following the huge growth and subsequent decline in the number of Chinese students coming to New Zealand, our schools have had to work hard to maintain existing markets and build new ones. Whilst some schools in New Zealand have turned away from international students, others have lifted their efforts. Those efforts have been rewarded, and schools throughout New Zealand are demonstrating that the market is there for those that invest wisely, market well and above all ensure that they 'deliver the goods' for their students.'

'The number of Chinese students continues to drift downwards, although we believe a market equilibrium has been reached, and the are signs that Chinese students are once more putting New Zealand high on the list of choices' says Robert Stevens. 'Increases from South America, Europe and the Middle East show that diversification efforts are paying off. The nett result is a better balanced student population, and better outcomes for both international and Kiwi students.'

'Schools have worked hard for this, and achieved this increase in spite of a marked appreciation in the New Zealand dollar' says Robert Stevens. 'Education New Zealand and other stakeholders have also worked hard to support student recruitment and generically promote New Zealand as an education destination. Whilst 'one swallow doesn't make a summer' there is a renewed spring in the step of our schools based international educators'.

Ends

**Stuart Boag**

Communications Manager, Education New Zealand

**TEL:** 04-917-0539  
**MOBILE:** 027-664-6092  
**E-MAIL:** [stuart.boag@educationnz.org.nz](mailto:stuart.boag@educationnz.org.nz)

