

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Cairns City Welcomes International Students And Celebrates with a Special Event**

Study Cairns is coordinating a welcome celebration to acknowledge the contribution students from overseas countries bring to the community and add to our multicultural understanding.

Mayor Kevin Byrne will be opening the festivities at the Council Chambers which he has kindly allowed Study Cairns to use for this celebration on Wednesday 8th March.

Students will be treated to Australian style food, music and entertainment provided by local entertainers and the chance to get up close and personal with Australian wildlife for a photo opportunity.

The focus of the celebration is to officially welcome international students who have chosen Cairns as their destination to study, and to highlight the services, quality education and diverse opportunities offered by student providers in the region.

Local community leaders have also been invited to celebrate the diverse curriculum and tropical lifestyle offered to international students.

Study Cairns is a network cluster group of members working together to strengthen, develop and market education services for the region.

The importance of the export education market to this region is highlighted in the most recent research by Cummings Economics,

- 14,700 student visitors were attracted to the Cairns region from 26 countries – Japan, Asia, Europe and USA providing greatest number
- Expenditure in the region is estimated at about \$50 million which was up on the 1999 estimate of about \$30 million
- Over the next ten years, it is estimated that international student visitor numbers in the region will increase to about 34,000 a year and that the region's international education earnings will rise to about \$140 million, making it one of the region's important foreign exchange earners.

#### **International Student Welcome Celebration: Photo opportunity**

**Date: Wednesday 08 March 2006**

**Time: 5.30pm- 7.30pm**

**Venue: Cairns City Council Chambers**

For further details, please contact:

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