



**Australian High Commission**  
**Kuala Lumpur**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Australian High Commissioner meets Malaysian Minister of Education,  
YB Dr Maszlee bin Malik**

21 June 2018

Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, HE Andrew Golezdzinowski, met today with Malaysian Minister of Education, YB Dr Maszlee bin Malik.

The High Commissioner congratulated Dr Maszlee on his election to the Malaysian Parliament and appointment as Minister of Education.

“It was a pleasure to meet Dr Maszlee and hear about his vision for Malaysia’s education reform. This meeting provided a platform to build on our already very strong education relationship, to develop new cooperative activities.” Golezdzinowski said.

They discussed the new Malaysian government’s education priorities and ways Australia could support the government’s reform agenda in areas of mutual interest, including: values teaching; higher education reform; vocational education and research cooperation; and cultural, sport and education exchange.

Australia and Malaysia share a strong and cooperative education partnership. Even before independence, Malaysian students were studying in Australian universities. The advent of the iconic Colombo Plan in 1950s – with the largest cohort coming from Malaysia - added to this engagement. Over the years thousands of publically and privately-funded students have built these links further. And a now new chapter is being formed through the New Colombo Plan and the many hundreds of Australian students it is bringing to Malaysia each year.

Australia is the leading destination for Malaysian students, with over 26,000 Malaysians studying in Australia in 2017. A further 18,000 students obtain an Australian qualification in Malaysia each year at Australian university campuses in Kuala Lumpur (Monash University Malaysia), Kuching (Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus) and Miri (Curtin University Malaysia) - or through partner arrangements between local institutions and other Australian universities.

In all, hundreds of thousands of Malaysian students across several generations have now studied an Australia qualification and there have been a multitude of cooperative activities which have enhanced the quality of educational opportunities in both countries. The people-to-people links formed through education and research exchange are the foundation and strength of the bilateral relationship.