



The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW INNOVATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Government of the Australian State of New South Wales (NSW) is promoting the innovative use of data and social media to support International Students at a 48 hour 'hackday' event in Sydney, the State's capital, this weekend.

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Trade & Investment Andrew Stoner said 'GovHack Sydney', organised by NSW based Intersect, will bring teams of computer coders together to create useful applications ('apps') from government data.

"NSW is a great place to live, study and work and our Government is constantly looking for innovative ways to make the experience of studying here even better for our international students.

"Each year we welcome more than 100,000 international students from over 170 countries to Sydney and NSW, where they receive high quality, internationally recognised educations at some of the world's best institutions.

"International students make a valuable contribution to our State - they bring diversity, enrich our communities and connect us to the world and it's important that we explore new and smarter ways to deepen that relationship further.

Mr Stoner said the NSW Government supported the "Best Use of Data and Social Media to Support International Students in NSW" Prize at GovHack Sydney.

"GovHack Sydney is part of a national competition where community coders assemble teams, take government data sets and build apps.

"It has been developed by Intersect, a consortium of 11 universities working to identify, develop and deliver world-class Information and Communication Technology enabled platforms to drive the next generation of research and innovation.

"The NSW Government is sponsoring a prize to stimulate the innovative use of data and social media to support international students – this might include getting international students more involved in their local community or helping them identify work and internship opportunities.

"More than 500 coders will be competing for a range of prizes at the two-day event, which is aligned with this year's Vivid Sydney, a global celebration of creativity and innovation," Mr Stoner said.

For more information about GovHack Sydney visit www.govhack.org and <http://www.facebook.com/pages/GovHack-Sydney/575276882493115>

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