

Media Release

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Kip McGrath Education Centres launches new licensing model at international Education Ministers meeting

Announces pioneering South African licensing agreement

Kip McGrath Education Centres (KMEC), the ASX-listed, Newcastle-based provider of learning support, announced the launch of a new learner enrichment centre licensing model at the recent 19th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (19CCEM), a move that will help lift educational achievement in developing countries.

The new licensing model dramatically reduces the total cost of delivering supplementary education in developing countries, with KMEC partnering with schools to provide technology resources, teacher training and ongoing support in implementing its highly successful curriculum and methodology.

KMEC attended 19CCEM, held in The Bahamas, as one of three global "Official Supporters," marking the first time non-government partners have been invited to the event.

The new licensing model has significant potential internationally, with KMEC recently piloting and proving the model in South African schools. Following the pilot, eight schools have signed license agreements and are using the Kip McGrath method of remediation and KMEC is in further discussions to open additional centres in the country.

CEO of KMEC, Storm McGrath, said: "Launching our new licensing model and having already signed up eight Learning Enrichment Centres before 19CCEM allowed us to open productive and engaging dialogues with a range of education ministers and government officials.

"We see great potential for this new model to lift educational achievement, particularly in the developing world, where countries commonly lack the resources and knowledge to deal with students who are poor performers. It is with these students that supplementary education has the biggest role to play, as the growth of skilled employment opportunities in developing countries means individuals who lack basic literacy and numeracy skills risk being excluded from work altogether.

"Research has shown that if learning difficulties aren't addressed, there is a very real chance under-educated groups will go on to engage in anti-social behavior, presenting a whole set of new problems to governments."

The new licensing model also has significant potential in Australia, where a concerning number of students experience difficulty achieving national literacy and numeracy standards.

“The Program for International Student Assessment study in 2012 revealed that four in ten 15 year old Australian students fell below the national baseline level for mathematical literacy, and at least one in three students fell below the national baseline for reading and science,” said Storm McGrath.

“This is a concerning statistic for Australia as the number of low-skilled jobs declines, and poor performers in school find themselves unable to access the labour market. Large groups of underperforming students finding themselves locked out of the labour market isn’t an outcome which anybody desires, and we believe supplementary education programs have a leading role to play in preventing this.

“Attending 19CCEM truly put supplementary education and the learning enrichment centre model on the world stage, opening doors for meetings with a range of organisations and government officials around the globe,” said Mr McGrath.

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About Kip McGrath Educational Centres

Since opening its first tutoring centre in Maitland, New South Wales, in 1974, Kip McGrath has built an international reputation as a trusted and innovative provider of quality supplementary education. Through a global franchise network of more than 500 centres in more than 20 countries, Kip McGrath Education Centres (KMEC) provides tutorial assistance in reading, spelling, comprehension, English and mathematics to school children from kindergarten to Year 12. KMEC is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).