

## Media Release

30 April, 2015

### **Kip McGrath named an inaugural Official Supporter of the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in 2015**

In an historic first, Newcastle-based provider of tutoring and learning support Kip McGrath Education Centres has been invited to participate as one of three global non-government "Official Supporters" in this year's triennial Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM), to be held in June in The Bahamas.

CCEM has been held triennially since 1959. The 2015 event – the 19<sup>th</sup> in the series, and known as '19CCEM' – will bring Education Ministers and their Senior Officials together to address the conference theme of 'Quality Education for Equitable Development: Performance, Paths and Productivity'.

19CCEM will follow next month's World Education Forum in Incheon, South Korea, at which the UNESCO, its partner agencies and member ministries will agree on education goals and targets in the post-2015 development agenda. The June CCEM gathering will provide the first opportunity for more than one-quarter of UN member countries to start to work with their key stakeholders towards attaining those goals.

Kip McGrath's invitation to participate in 19CCEM follows an initiative of The Bahamas Government and the main intergovernmental agency of the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Secretariat, to open the Ministerial Meeting at CCEM to the substantive input of three 'Official Supporters'. As an official supporter, Kip McGrath will contribute to key plenary and breakout sessions, engage member governments through bilateral meetings, and deliver an 'Innovation Showcase' to Education Ministers.

Kip McGrath's involvement reflects its active role providing education services in many of the developing Commonwealth countries attending 19CCEM, and its reputation for innovation and excellence in education.

19CCEM Nexus Project Director Stephen Pyner said: "I am delighted that Kip McGrath Education Centres has accepted our invitation to be an Official Supporter of 19CCEM. The company has made a strong contribution to quality education delivery in over 13 Commonwealth countries, and has committed to expand further its Commonwealth operations. I am particularly looking forward to Kip McGrath's Innovation Showcase, which will give the company a platform to present its credentials as an innovator and thought leader in education-for-development, as well as demonstrating to Education Ministers the benefits of a national education policy that integrates shadow learning."

CEO of Kip McGrath Education Centres, Storm McGrath, said: "Kip McGrath is excited and honoured by this opportunity to showcase the work we have been doing to supplement education systems in

Commonwealth countries over the past 40 years. We look forward to demonstrating the methodologies we have developed to address illiteracy and innumeracy, and showcasing our online platform to help regional and geographically remote children.”

19CCEM Nexus Executive Director Simon Goodlad, said: “2015 is such an important year for the international development and education communities as they agree frameworks to build on the huge gains in extending access to education over the past 15 years, by deepening the quality of that education delivery over the next 15 years. Government-to-government and business-to-government partnerships will be increasingly vital to that process. I am delighted that the Government of The Bahamas and the Commonwealth Secretariat have shown such leadership in this process by opening 19CCEM and inviting the input of leading private sector education solutions providers, and I am particularly delighted that Kip McGrath has answered their call.”

Alongside the main Ministerial Meeting at 19CCEM, the adjacent Youth Forum, Teachers Forum and Stakeholders Forum will bring together students, educators and other education stakeholders to prepare recommendations for the Education Ministers.

Since 2006 (16CCEM in Cape Town) the private sector has been an increasingly important voice in CCEMs, using the Stakeholders Forum to share best practice and thought leadership – whether as a provider, supporter or enabler of education – with constituencies including governments, NGOs and the donor community.

Until this year, the Stakeholders Forum and the Commonwealth Education Showcase exhibition have been the only platforms for the private sector to engage Education Ministers at CCEM. Although these are powerful vehicles, the opportunity for leading education solutions providers to directly address the main Ministerial Meeting while in session has not been available.

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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).*