

# MEDIA RELEASE



24 OCTOBER 2023

## MELBOURNE PLANS CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN MARCH 2024

Committee for Melbourne announced today, the 2024 'Melbourne International Student Week' recognising and celebrating international students and all they bring to the city.

Joining forces with The Ascott Limited, Australia (Ascott Australia), Committee for Melbourne will for the second year, put on a welcome celebration event full of events, activities and music at Fed Square on the first weekend in March, followed by a weeklong series of activations and activities over multiple sites across Melbourne.

The event will bring together all students studying in Melbourne – both local and from abroad – by showcasing the culture and services our great city has to offer. Acknowledging international students are a critical part of the social, cultural and economic fabric of Melbourne, all Melburnians are invited to join in the celebration at Fed Square in March 2024. Committee for Melbourne and Ascott Australia, recognise the value that international education and international students bring to the Victorian community and the importance of providing effective support for international students and direct impact to Victoria's reputation.

To support the influx of students and families, Ascott Australia's multiple brands, including serviced apartment brand Quest Apartment Hotels, inner-city accommodation brand Citadines, upscale, home like apartment brand Oakwood, and co-living brand lyf, will offer student friends and families a range of accommodation options to make their stay in Melbourne comfortable and convenient.

International education is the state's third largest export earner behind food and fibre and manufacturing. Victorian international students, contribute \$6.9 billion into the economy and support more than 40,000 jobs.

There are more than 140,000 international students from 160 countries studying in Victoria, making Melbourne the most diverse student city in the world.

Committee for Melbourne's CEO Mark Melvin said, "It is no wonder international students are attracted to studying at Melbourne's universities."

Mark Melvin said, "With the recent announcement of Melbourne as the 4th best international student city, I genuinely believe this partnership with Ascott Australia creates an important opportunity to welcome international students and help them get to know this incredible city".

David Mansfield, Managing Director of Ascott Australia, expressed, "We're proud to collaborate with the Committee of Melbourne in celebrating our international student community and acknowledging their contributions to our city's culture and communities. International students play a vital role to the health and vibrancy of our economy and we're proud to offer multiple accommodation options through a cultivated brand catalogue to support their diverse stay requirements".

Mr Melvin said that, "Committee for Melbourne recognises that providing effective support for our international students has a direct impact on Melbourne's reputation. Attracting and retaining smart and globally connected talent is important for Melbourne including through contributions to the visitor economy, jobs and innovation and ultimately developing a global skills pipeline for Melbourne."

**ENDS**

**For more information about Melbourne International Student Week contact:**

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### **About Committee for Melbourne:**

Committee for Melbourne is relentless in its pursuit of positive and enduring change for all Melburnians. With more than 150 members from major corporations, small and medium business, academic institutions, local government, and not-for-profit entities and through embracing three key pillars – Future Economy, Infrastructure & Sustainability, and Liveability & Urban Optimisation – the Committee exists to ensure Melbourne’s challenges and opportunities are addressed to keep our city vital, inclusive, progressive, and sustainable. The Committee is a not-for-profit, member-funded entity that is politically independent and impartial, allowing us to freely and purposefully raise important issues. To learn more visit: [melbourne.org.au](http://melbourne.org.au)

### **About The Ascott Limited:**

Since pioneering Asia Pacific’s first international class serviced residence with the opening of The Ascott Singapore in 1984, Ascott has grown to be a trusted hospitality company with more than 930 properties globally. Headquartered in Singapore, Ascott’s presence extends across more than 220 cities in over 40 countries in Asia Pacific, Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the USA.

Ascott’s diversified accommodation offerings span serviced residences, coliving properties, hotels and independent senior living apartments, as well as student accommodation and rental housing. Its award-winning hospitality brands include Ascott, Citadines, lyf, Oakwood, Quest, Somerset, The Crest Collection, The Unlimited Collection, Preference, Fox, Harris, POP!, Vertu and Yello; and it has a brand partnership with Domitys. Through Ascott Star Rewards (ASR), Ascott’s loyalty programme, members enjoy exclusive privileges and offers at participating properties.

Its Australian portfolio comprises the Citadines, lyf, Oakwood, Somerset and Quest Apartment Hotels brands, each specifically designed to meet the diverse needs of today’s global traveller.

A wholly owned business unit of CapitaLand Investment Limited, Ascott is a leading vertically-integrated lodging operator. Harnessing its extensive network of third-party owners and in-market expertise, Ascott grows fee-related earnings through its hospitality management and investment management capabilities. Ascott also expands its funds under management by growing its sponsored CapitaLand Ascott Trust and private funds.

For more information on Ascott’s industry record of close to 40 years and its sustainability programme, please visit [www.discoverasr.com/the-ascott-limited](http://www.discoverasr.com/the-ascott-limited). Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### **About CapitaLand Investment Limited ([www.capitalandinvest.com](http://www.capitalandinvest.com)):**

Headquartered and listed in Singapore, CapitaLand Investment Limited (CLI) is a leading global real estate investment manager (REIM) with a strong Asia foothold. As at 30 June 2023, CLI had S\$134 billion of real estate assets under management, and S\$89 billion of real estate funds under management (FUM) held via six listed real estate investment trusts and business trusts, and more than 30 private vehicles across Asia Pacific, Europe and USA. Its diversified real estate asset classes cover retail, office, lodging, business parks, industrial, logistics and data centres.

CLI aims to scale its FUM and fee-related earnings through fund management, lodging management and its full stack of operating capabilities, and maintain effective capital management. As the investment management arm of CapitaLand Group, CLI has access to the development capabilities of and pipeline investment opportunities from CapitaLand’s development arm.

As a responsible company, CLI places sustainability at the core of what it does and has committed to achieve Net Zero emissions for scope 1 and 2 by 2050. CLI contributes to the environmental and social well-being of the communities where it operates, as it delivers long-term economic value to its stakeholders. **For more information, please contact** Ryan Smith | [ryan.smith@the-ascott.com](mailto:ryan.smith@the-ascott.com)