

MEDIA RELEASE

26 March 2018

RUN supports National Regional Higher Education Strategy Bill

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) congratulates Cathy McGowan MP on the introduction of her National Regional Higher Education Strategy Bill into the House of Representatives on March 26 2018.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, said that the network strongly supports the strategy, which would benefit regional Australians.

“RUN released its own National Regional Higher Education Strategy framework in late 2017 in recognition that regional Australia needs place-based policy and funding for its universities. A one-size-fits all approach to higher education, such as the current across-the-board funding freeze, is a blunt instrument which proportionately negatively impacts on the regions. We need to lift participation at university by regional Australians, and we have a greater reliance on government funding than older, metropolitan universities,” Professor Hill said.

“Regional universities have a unique role in their communities. They significantly boost regional economies. They are major employers and purchasers, their graduates largely work in the regions, and they contribute to research, innovation, health, arts, culture and sport,” Professor Hill said.

“We strongly support Cathy McGowan’s Bill.”

The RUN National Regional Higher Education Strategy framework is available at http://www.run.edu.au/cb_pages/policy.php.

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