Regional universities continue to grow

Regional Australia is experiencing dynamic growth and regional universities are educating an increasing number of regional Australians.

New figures released by the Federal Government show that the Regional Universities Network’s (RUN’s) institutions have grown dramatically from 2007 to 2012.

The Chair of RUN, Professor David Battersby, said that RUN’s universities were making a major contribution to the economic growth of the regions through providing higher education to many regional students.

"RUN’s six universities have grown from about 11 to 84 per cent over the last five years and in 2012 will have filled over 40,000 university places,” Professor Battersby said.

*Overall Australian universities grew by 27 per cent during this time.

*Over a third of Australians live outside capital cities. The regional population is expected to grow by 26 per cent from 2012 to 2026.

*Many regional Australians need to have access to higher education in the regions. Regional universities deliver a comprehensive range of courses that meet critical labour market needs across all sectors of the economy.

*Graduates who complete their studies at regional universities tend to remain in regional areas for both further study and employment.

"The education RUN's institutions deliver is vital to regional Australia and the nation as a whole," Professor Battersby said.

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