

5 December 2021

## RUN WELCOMES COMMITMENT OF ADDITIONAL STUDENT PLACES

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes today's commitment from the Australian Labor Party of an additional 20,000 commencing Commonwealth Supported Places.

RUN's Executive Director, Alec Webb, said that today's announcement would enable regional universities to meet increasing levels of regional student demand.

"Thousands more commencing Commonwealth Supported Places would be a welcome relief for regional Australians looking to commence their studies at Australia's world-class regional universities," said Mr Webb.

Regional populations are increasing, and with huge demand for higher education qualifications, regional universities would welcome the additional fully-funded places, enabling more Australians to pursue their dreams of university level study.

Particularly promising is the prioritisation of First Nations Australians, people in remote and regional Australia and those who are first in family to study at university, which are cohorts of students particularly well served by Australia's regional universities. Many of these students are seeking that personalised student support and exceptional student and life experiences that regional universities provide.

"Strong regional universities provide great outcomes for the whole nation, and opportunities for all Australians, especially those students who have been traditionally underrepresented in Australia's higher education sector. This commitment would go a long way to ensuring regional universities can continue to meet the educational aspirations of our regional, rural and remote communities," said Mr Webb.

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