

24 October 2022

RUN WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL STUDENT PLACES

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes today's announcement of an additional 20,000 commencing Commonwealth Supported Places.

RUN's Executive Director, Alec Webb, said that today's announcement recognises the role that regional universities play in solving Australia's skills crisis and the role that regional universities play in educating Australians from under-represented cohorts.

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

RUN universities will receive more than 2,500 additional CSPs over the next two years, resulting in more than an additional \$69 million in funding.

The increased places for First Nations Australians, people in remote and regional Australia and those who are first in the family to study at university, which are cohorts of students particularly well served by Australia's regional universities, are welcomed. As is the focus on those areas of education that serve community needs and are currently facing ongoing skills shortages.

"Regional universities provide outcomes and opportunities for all Australians, especially those students who have been traditionally underrepresented in Australia's higher education sector.

"This announcement will ensure that regional universities can continue to meet the educational aspirations of our regional, rural and remote communities as we know that 70 percent of our graduates remain in the regions post-study." said Mr Webb.

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