

MEDIA RELEASE

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UNIVERSITIES ACCORD OFFERS A CHANCE FOR GENERATIONAL REFORM TO THE BETTERMENT OF ALL AUSTRALIANS

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) looks forward to working with Minister Clare, Professor Kane and the other members of the Australian Universities Accord Panel to ensure that Australia's higher education sector is equipped to meet the needs of all Australians.

RUN Executive Director, Alec Webb said that the Accord provides an opportunity to ensure Australia's higher education sector is fit for purpose and designed to enable students from all backgrounds and locations to access and succeed at university.

"Australia's higher education sector requires long-term policy and funding certainty to meet the skilling and innovation needs of future Australians and the Accord will provide the opportunity for the sector and Government to co-develop the necessary frameworks to guarantee this.

"It is particularly pleasing to see the focus in the Accord on improving the educational attainment rates of underrepresented student cohorts at universities.

"Regional universities do the heavy lifting in ensuring that students from underrepresented backgrounds access and succeed at higher education and play a crucial role in driving Australia's economic and social prosperity.

"RUN universities enrol the nation's highest rates of indigenous students, students from low socio-economic backgrounds, and students from regional, rural and remote communities.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with the panel and are delighted to see that the Hon Fiona Nash, Australia's Regional Education Commissioner is one of the panel members recognising the important role that regional universities will play in meeting the future educational needs of Australia.

"RUN look forward to working with the Government, the Department of Education and the panel to ensure Australia's higher education system will enable all Australians, especially those from regional, rural and remote Australia, to benefit from the life-changing experience of higher education", said Mr Webb

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