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## RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2023

**Name:** Dr Desirée Kozlowski

**Institution:** Southern Cross University

**Title:** A step toward equity for regional psychology students

**Application Category:** Regional Education

**Abstract:** In 2023, the undergraduate psychology program at Southern Cross University became paid textbook free for students. This equity initiative is at the forefront of a sector wide awareness that open educational resources offer many benefits to students.

Arising from an idea proposed by then Course Coordinator Dr Desirée Kozlowski in 2020, the evolution was not achieved without challenges and anxiety. However, whole of team commitment, determination, cajoling, and close collaboration between academic staff and librarians saw the vision realised.

This social justice transformation will save 2023's commencing psychology students almost half a million dollars across their degree while also increasing the representation of diverse voices within the material students encounter.

This innovation will particularly benefit Southern Cross University's regional student cohort as regional students are known to be disproportionately affected by financial pressures. The initiative is also attracting attention from other courses and institutions wishing to pursue this very contemporary approach to equity and excellence. Let the revolution commence.