

RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2023

Name: Student Success Advising Team

Institution: University of Southern Queensland

Title: If you build it, will they come? Student Success Advising at a Regional University Study Hub

Application Category: Regional Education

Abstract: Regional University Study Hubs (formerly known as Regional University Centres) are the subject of renewed attention following the release of The Australian Universities Accord Interim Report. These Hubs are designed to address the barriers and enablers that exist for rural, regional and remote students, and aim to improve participation, retention and completion rates of students in regional and remote areas.

In Semester 2, 2023, UniSQ's Student Success Advising Team piloted an outreach with the Goondiwindi Regional University Centre (RUC). The aim of the outreach was to raise awareness and encourage engagement with the available support for learning facilities and resources. The team conducted a series of phone and email outreach with all UniSQ students in the Goondiwindi area.

This has delivered positive outcomes. Previously, no UniSQ students engaged with the RUC, there was no local academic skills support, and no students had applied for a UniSQ Scholarship. After UniSQ's engagement, 36% of students immediately registered with the Centre, in-person academic skills workshops were held, and students were supported to apply for a range of scholarships. Though small in scope, these findings reiterate the importance of engaging with students within their communities to support them to meet their learning goals.