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RUN WELCOMES 2012-13 TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH BUDGET

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the Federal Government's 2012-13 tertiary education, science and research budget which shows an increased commitment to the university sector.

The Chair of RUN, Professor David Battersby, said that the continuation of the demand driven system and improved indexation arrangements in an environment of fiscal constraint was pleasing.

"We particularly welcome the Government's increased support for equity measures in this budget as proposed in the base funding review," Professor Battersby said.

"The commitment to provide \$1400 per low SES student, the increase in partnership funding aimed at helping disadvantaged students aspire to and complete a university education and the increase in loading for enabling courses will assist RUN universities educate low SES students.

"Our institutions have a high proportion of low SES students which is growing. These measures will help ensure that the students are adequately prepared for and supported in their studies.

"We also welcome the Government's additional support for maths and science teaching.

"The Government has recognised the importance of higher education in making Australia more productive and competitive. RUN universities will help realise this goal by educating an increasing numbers of students in regional Australia," Professor Battersby said.

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