

5 AUGUST 2013

UNIVERSITY RED TAPE REVIEW A SENSIBLE RESPONSE: REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the findings of the review into red tape in the university sector, Review of Higher Education Regulation, released by the Minister for Higher Education, Senator Kim Carr, on August 5.

The Chair of RUN, Professor David Battersby, said that the report advocated a sensible response to the regulatory issues facing the sector, and that the reviewers, Professor Kwong Lee Dow and Professor Valerie Braithwaite, had produced a comprehensive report in a short space of time.

"The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) has an important role to play. As the review notes, more Australians than ever, particularly from lower socio-economic status backgrounds, are participating in higher education, and regional universities are contributing substantially to this. Australia continues to maintain its outstanding reputation for delivering quality education," Professor Battersby said.

"Universities are self-accrediting institutions, and RUN supports the reduction of the regulatory burden on the sector. We support TEQSA focussing on its core activities of provider registration and course accreditation, and agree that further consideration should be given to aligning and streamlining regulatory activities and reporting.

"We support the recommendation that the Government align the reviews of VET and higher education standards to improve the efficiency of providers and ensure consistent protection of students.

"RUN considers that the reforms recommended by the review will enhance the regulation of higher education," Professor Battersby said.

For media enquiries:

Dr Caroline Perkins, Executive Director, Regional Universities Network, 0408 482 736
Issued by: Aaron Hall, RUN Media Adviser, 0402 756 835

www.run.edu.au