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## **REGIONAL STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM REPEAL OF SELF-EDUCATION EXPENSES CAP**

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the announcement by Treasurer Joe Hockey that the Government will not implement the \$2000 cap on work-related education expense tax deductions proposed by the former Government.

Labor announced a cap on self-education expenses at the last budget, to save \$266 million over the forward estimates, but Mr Hockey said the Government would not proceed with the initiative.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Peter Lee, said this was an important decision for regional students because some of their self-education could only be undertaken in cities which involved transport and accommodation costs.

Professor Lee said that professionals in regional Australia should be encouraged to undertake ongoing education.

"The cap would potentially have discouraged the enrolment of professionals in fee paying post-graduate education at university. It would have particularly impacted 81 per cent of the 174,000 affected taxpayers who earn less than \$80,000 a year, including many in regional Australia," Professor Lee said.

"It is important that we continue to encourage professionals in health, education, engineering, agriculture etc in the regions to undertake post-graduate education to upskill their qualifications. RUN universities are major providers of flexible education and give the opportunity for such training.

"Twenty per cent of RUN students are non-research post-graduates for whom this change will make a difference. People should be encouraged to invest in their own education," Professor Lee said.

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