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RUN STRONGLY SUPPORTS STUDENT DEMAND DRIVEN SYSTEM

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) strongly supports keeping the student demand driven system.

RUN Chair Peter Lee said a model proposed by Professor Glyn Davis, Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne, which proposes that funding to universities should be capped, but allows them to determine the make-up of their student bodies, would not give regional universities the flexibility to grow as needed.

“Regional universities need to grow significantly in student numbers, particularly in bachelor degrees, to address the need for more regional Australians to gain university qualifications,” Professor Lee said.

“The proportion of people in capitals with a university degree is twice that of people in the regions.

“RUN universities need to continue to grow to fully realise the investment in new infrastructure and courses over the last few years, largely funded by Government.

Professor Lee said the best way to get more professionals in the regions was to train them in the regions.

“The student demand driven system is a significant driver for the increased participation of regional Australians in higher education, and hence the key to regional development and diversification of regional industry.”

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