

**19 FEBRUARY 2014**

## **RUN WELCOMES REVIEW OF TEACHER TRAINING**

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the announcement by the Minister for Education, the Hon Christopher Pyne, on February 19 of a Ministerial Education Advisory Group to lead a review of teacher education.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Peter Lee, said that it is crucial that the review looks at the key areas in the Terms of Reference of pedagogical approaches, subject content, and professional experience from the perspective of regional Australia and its universities.

"Regional universities are major educators of teachers who work in regional schools and our institutions have a long and established history of teacher education. We are committed to producing quality teacher education graduates," Professor Lee said.

"Regional Australia is needs more motivated teachers to engage with regional students and who will enthusiastically work outside capital cities. Year 12 completion rates in regional Australia are 20 per cent below that in capital cities. There are particular issues with getting more boys and Indigenous Australians to complete school and progress to higher education.

"It is of vital importance that the review rejects any simplistic model that says that the quality of the graduate is determined by the ATAR score of the individual as a school leaver, or that a very high score in a particular subject is necessary in order to be a good teacher.

"RUN will enthusiastically engage with the review and is looking forward to constructive recommendations that will assist Australia build the quality of its teachers.

"Quality professional development must be available. RUN is contributing to the development of maths and science teachers in regional Australian schools via our grant from the priority round of the Australian Maths and Science Partnerships program for the RUN Digital Classroom project.

"We are pleased that the review will particularly look at the teaching of maths and science. The Commonwealth must continue its commitment to maths and science education of students by announcing successful projects in the competitive round of the Australian Maths and Science Partnerships program," Professor Lee said.

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