

**6 OCTOBER 2015**

## **RUN: TESTS FOR TEACHERS EDUCATION SHOULD NOT DISADVANTAGE REGIONAL STUDENTS**

RUN has urged the new Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham, to ensure that regional students aren't disadvantaged in any new literacy and numeracy test for initial teacher education.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Jan Thomas, said that issues around the implementation of the test, which was proposed by the Teacher Education Ministerial Group, were currently being considered.

"The new test will come into effect from July, 2016, and will be provided by the Australian Council for Educational Research. However, a lot of unknowns remain – for example, who pays, the implications of failure of a significant number of students, and whether the test must be done in a capital city or may be done online," Professor Thomas said.

"Teacher training students at regional universities should not have to travel to undertake tests. If travel is required, the relevant costs should not be borne by students.

"If an online test is developed, every effort must be made to ensure that the oversight arrangements are robust," Professor Thomas said.

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