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RUN WELCOMES NATIONAL PRIORITIES POOL FUNDING FOR REGIONAL STUDENTS

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) warmly welcomes the announcement by Senator Bridget McKenzie of a National Priorities Pool program round, under the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program, to assist regional and rural students into university.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Jan Thomas, said that the round was well targeted to help universities reach out to students outside capital cities.

"We are delighted that the Government has recognised the need to continue to lift the participation of regional and low socio-economic status students at university. This is vital for regional Australia and its cities. By improving aspiration and opportunities for regional Australians to attend university, the full human and innovative potential of the nation can be unlocked," Professor Thomas said.

"Through university study and research, students become more highly skilled, and are better prepared to be creative, entrepreneurial and flexible to meet future job challenges. It is important that both school leaver and mature age students are targeted for university study. Students who study at regional universities largely stay in the regions to work, thereby enriching regional Australia," Professor Thomas said.

"This announcement demonstrates the importance of continuing funding for the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program."

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