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NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION RECOGNISES REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES

The new National Strategy for International Education recognises that there are significant opportunities for international student growth in regional Australia.

The Chair of the Regional Universities Network (RUN), Professor Jan Thomas, said that promoting opportunities in regional Australia for international students was a key action under the strategy.

“This sends a strong message that regional Australia is a great destination for international students. RUN universities want to encourage more international students to study outside capital cities. We offer a comprehensive range of undergraduate degrees. Regional universities excel in research in many disciplines, including agriculture, forestry, soil science, and health sciences among others which are ranked at the highest international standards,” Professor Thomas said.

“International students at our regional campuses record satisfaction levels as good as or better than those at metropolitan-based universities.

“Smaller campuses and smaller class sizes mean better access to lecturers, more opportunity to make friends, and generally a more supportive learning environment. Students generally enjoy lower accommodation costs than in metropolitan areas, and there are opportunities for part-time work while studying,” Professor Thomas said.

“International students diversify regional communities, and facilitate and enrich cultural development. Our communities are welcoming of international students, who can potentially help to fill areas of skills shortage in the regions.”

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