

3 MARCH 2017

REGIONAL EDUCATION REVIEW SHOULD HELP BETTER EDUCATION OUTCOMES

The Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education, announced by Education and Training Minister Simon Birmingham on March 2, will provide an opportunity for a holistic look at ways to promote the educational aspirations and attainment of regional Australians.

The review will address secondary education, and the transition to tertiary education, with the aim of getting more students to undertake further study, training and employment.

The Chair of the Regional Universities Network (RUN), Professor Greg Hill, said that the review should lay the groundwork for improving educational outcomes.

"There are multiple reasons why Year 12 and higher education attainment in the regions is much lower than that in major cities. Students commonly have few role models in their communities, or they may lack appropriate careers advice or specialist teachers," Professor Hill said.

"Outreach and other programs, largely funded by the Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program, assists RUN lift the aspiration of school students for university study in regional areas, but much more needs to be done.

"We welcome the recognition by the Government that boosting educational attainment in the regions must be a priority," Professor Hill said.

"Not only does education enrich the lives of individuals, their families and communities, better educated regional Australians will help regional economies transition and diversify. It will benefit the nation as a whole."

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