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RUN AND MILLIONPLUS SIGN MOU

The Australian Regional Universities Network (RUN) and the UK's Association for Modern Universities MillionPlus have signed an MOU to collaborate on strategy and policy development in higher education, research, innovation, and regional development.

The member universities of both groups share a commitment to developing universities that contribute significantly to their regional communities, generate economic, social and cultural benefit and act as anchor institutions for the communities they serve.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, said that both groups wanted the co-operative relationship to be meaningful and of substantive benefit in a changing policy environment.

"The member universities have related missions. We have similar student profiles, with a large proportion of first in family students. Both groups are focussed on employment outcomes, innovation and research with impact, and have a close connection with their local communities and regions," Professor Hill said.

The Chair of MillionPlus, Professor Dave Phoenix, said that the MOU will provide a framework for a shared understanding of key issues as both the UK and Australia undergo significant policy change in higher education.

"With higher education reform legislation being considered by Parliament in Australia, and further reforms under discussion in the UK, the collaboration is timely for both groups," Professor Phoenix said.

"We will initially work together on: approaches to promote student success; the role of universities as anchor institutions for their regions in the context of regional development; international student policy; and leveraging RUN and MillionPlus member interests in Universities Australia / Universities UK discussions on future, collaborative arrangements.

"We are very much looking forward to working together," Professors Hill and Phoenix said.

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