MEDIA RELEASE

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RUN PROVIDES NATIONAL REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGY FRAMEWORK TO THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE EDUCATION

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) is providing a National Regional Higher Education Strategy Framework to Emeritus Professor John Halsey for consideration in his Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, said that the strategy aims to better harness the capacity of regional universities, as anchor institutions for their regions, to be facilitators of economic and social regeneration.

"A National Regional Higher Education Strategy would better recognise the needs of regional Australia by taking a place-based approach, where appropriate, to existing tertiary and secondary education, research, innovation, employment and regional development policies and programs. Initiatives in different portfolios, and delivered by different levels of government, would work together in a consistent, joined-up manner," Professor Hill said.

"Regional loading, which is the part of existing higher education policy, needs to be enhanced and reviewed.

"Specific, integrated plans, agreed by key stakeholders, should also be proposed for the development of particular regions through initiatives such as city deals or growth deals, including, where appropriate, new funding for infrastructure.

"The framework provides a structure, under which relevant policies and programs, which will evolve over time, sit," Professor Hill said.

"The strategy is a living document, and will evolve to incorporate new and enhanced initiatives."

The National Regional Higher Education Strategy Framework is available on the RUN website at: http://www.run.edu.au/cb_pages/policy.php

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