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RUN WELCOMES HALSEY REVIEW REPORT INTO REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE EDUCATION

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the release of the Halsey Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, said that the review had strongly endorsed the need for a place-based approach to regional education and students, and that education should be a fundamental part of the regional development framework.

"The review has found that a one-size-fits all education policy does not work for the regions or regional students. It endorses a national strategy for regional education, training and research," Professor Hill said.

"RUN released its National Regional Higher Education Strategy Framework in late 2017, and strongly supports the Halsey review's findings.

"We have advocated for the need to continue to grow tertiary education options in the regions, consistent with the review recommendation for an expansion of the availability, affordability and accessibility of dual VET/university options and two year associate degree programs for regional students.

"We support the recommendation to better support regional students make successful transitions from school to university, training, and employment. Financial issues are a significant factor in students not being able to successfully complete tertiary qualifications, and more needs to be done to assist them.

"Also of particular note are Emeritus Professor Halsey's proposed actions to put regional education at the heart of regional development. He has suggested that education providers should be eligible to apply for funding under regional development programs, and that legislation and programs which frame and impact on rural, regional, and remote Australia recognise place and location as legitimate bases for resource allocation.

"I congratulate Emeritus Professor Halsey on his report, and look forward to the Government taking up the recommendations for the benefit of regional Australian communities and the nation," Professor Hill said.

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