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## **RUN WELCOMES INITIATIVES TO SEND MORE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO REGIONAL CAMPUSES**

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the Prime Minister's comments that temporary visa allocations could be changed to encourage more international students to study in the regions.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, said that more international students in regional Australia would help build regional economies and social cohesion.

"International students studying at regional campuses are a boost to local economies through their expenditure, that of family and friends, and the payment of student fees" Professor Hill said.

"But, most importantly, international students studying in the regions record high levels of satisfaction with their learning experience, a high level of acceptance into the local community, and are exposed to the attractions of an authentic Australian regional lifestyle. These include a lower cost of living and less congestion than in major cities.

"The smaller campuses and class sizes in the regions mean that international students have more opportunity to interact and network with domestic students, lecturers and local communities, to build career and life skills. Regional communities, businesses and universities benefit from these international links in both the short and long term" Professor Hill said.

"The Prime Minister is right to say that regional universities would love to have more international students studying in the regions. We look forward to the Government pursuing relevant initiatives for a more joined-up approach between education, migration and regional development."

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