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## **RUN WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXPERT REGIONAL EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUP**

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the announcement by the Minister for Education, The Hon Dan Tehan MP, of the membership of the Expert Regional Education Advisory Group, chaired by the Hon Denis Napthine MP, which will develop the National Regional, Rural and Remote Education Strategy.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, said that the Terms of Reference were comprehensive and covered the key areas important to addressing the gap in tertiary education access, success and attainment between regional and metropolitan Australia.

“Lifting higher education attainment in the regions matters for the nation’s economic and social development and cohesion,” Professor Hill said.

“We are pleased to see that the Terms of Reference include: developing policies to lift the access and success of regional students in tertiary education; setting relevant targets; investigating the need for a commissioner to oversee the implementation of the strategy; and considering ways policies can be embedded in a broader, place-based approach.

“Measures to address low SES student participation are critically important, but specific initiatives for regional students, including place-based initiatives, are also needed to address the inequities caused by geographic isolation and disadvantage.

“RUN particularly welcomes the appointment of one of its former chairs and former Vice-Chancellor of Southern Cross University, Emeritus Professor Peter Lee, to the expert group,” Professor Hill said.

“We look forward to working with the panel in the months ahead on their important task.”

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