

REGIONAL UNIVERSITY CENTRES PROGRAM FUNDING



MOTION THREE

That the LGAQ calls on the Federal Government to further expand its support for the Regional University Centres Program to strengthen and expand the program to ensure Regional University Centres are able to be established in key areas where there are fundamental needs.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The desired outcome sought is for the Federal Government to expand the 2022 Regional University Centres Program commitment to cater for rural and remote regions experiencing the need for retaining, developing and attracting a skilled workforce.

There is an immediate need for the funding of reskilling, upskilling and support from the Federal and State Government to ensure that the regions can support the changes impacting their regions for retention and sustainability purposes.

Providing improved access and conditions to complete higher education, vocational and further studies without having to leave their community.

BACKGROUND

Rural, remote and indigenous communities deserve quality opportunities to pursue study opportunities without the need to relocate.

Statistics have regularly shown that regional people are 50 per cent less likely to gain a Bachelor qualification compared to their metropolitan counterparts.

Successful regional development is led by local communities and aligned with regional strengths. Currently students leave regional areas to study, students leave Isaac region to complete studies and don't return, or they don't begin studies because they don't want to leave home.

Each Centre is owned, governed, and driven by its local community through an independent Board of Directors. This

framework provides for place-based learning solutions.

These centres are able to identify and map the current and future skills in their communities as they are governed by local community representatives who are keen to improve the liveability and opportunities for rural, remote and indigenous regions.

The local placed based models ensure that the communities are sustainable and can stop the migration of youth out of their local communities to meet the workforce of the future needs.

Regional University Centres established in areas of need will be critical for the support of current and future industry and current and future communities.