



## Education Participation Gap

“We must drive and better set policy to encourage ambition among our country students, Regional and remote students made up just 18.8 per cent of domestic undergraduate students at universities, compared to 26.4 per cent of the population in 2016.”

*Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training*

<https://ministers.education.gov.au/birmingham/revitalising-regional-education>

### **From the Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education discussion paper:**

- ✓ Successful completion of year 12 or equivalent drops from 78 per cent in major cities to 43 per cent in very remote areas
- ✓ In 2014, 19.5 per cent for outer regional people aged 25-34 held a bachelor degree or above, compared to 42.2 per cent in major cities

*“The national statistics show there is a persistent relationship between location and educational outcomes”.*

*Emeritus Professor John Halsey*

<https://docs.education.gov.au/node/44526>

Young people in regional Australia are less likely to aspire to higher education - 68 per cent of young people in metropolitan areas intend to enrol in higher education whereas only 39 per cent in regional areas and 32 per cent in remote areas aspire to higher education.

### **Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)**

*Australian Regional Higher Education:*

*Student Characteristics & Experiences, 2010*

[https://research.acer.edu.au/higher\\_education/22/](https://research.acer.edu.au/higher_education/22/)

Parents in regional areas were up to 12.3 per cent less likely to expect their children to go on to higher education, even when educational backgrounds and socioeconomic status were taken into account.

### **Koshy et al.**

*Parental Expectations for young people’s participation in higher education in Australia*

*Studies in Higher Education, 2017*

<https://espace.curtin.edu.au/bitstream/handle/20.500.11937/70567/Koshy%20P%202018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

### **Regional students are:**

- ✓ 10 per cent less likely to have plans to attend university than metropolitan students
- ✓ 7 per cent less likely to complete high school than their metropolitan counterparts
- ✓ 4.7 per cent less likely to attend university than metropolitan students
- ✓ 5.8 per cent less likely than metropolitan students to graduate from university

### **National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education – Cardak et al.**

*Regional Student Participation and Migration:*

*Analysis of factors influencing regional student participation and internal migration in Australian Higher Education, 2017*


<https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/publications/regional-student-participation-and-migration-analysis-of-factors-influencing-regional-student-participation-and-internal-migration-in-australian-higher-education/>

Vocational education and training is an important pathway. Nearly one third of remote and outer regional students undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship.

### **Mitchell Institute**

*Education opportunity in Australia, 2015*

<http://www.mitchellinstitute.org.au/fact-sheets/young-people-in-rural-and-remote-communities-frequently-missing-out/>



“High university attendance by regional students isn’t always the right indicator of success. What works in skills development and what is relevant to shaping the lives of most people in regional Australia is what matters most.”

**National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education**

Successful outcomes for regional and remote students in Australian higher education, 2017

<https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/ncsehe-focus-successful-outcomes-for-regional-and-remote-students-in-australian-higher-education/>

In 2017, Universities Australia found that over 64% of regional students worried about their financial situation, and that **18.7% often went without food** or necessities due to financial hardship.

**University Australia**

Finance Survey, 2017

<https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/media-item/one-in-seven-uni-students-regularly-go-without-food/>

Less than 1/3 of All Australians in RRR areas have a university qualification or higher-level VET qualification, compared to more than ½ in metropolitan areas.

**Australian Government Department of Education & Training, 2018**

[https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/national\\_regional\\_rural\\_and\\_remote\\_tertiary\\_education\\_strategy.pdf](https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/national_regional_rural_and_remote_tertiary_education_strategy.pdf)

31% of RRR students cite financial difficulties as the reason for considering early departure from higher education, compared to 21% of metropolitan students.

**Australian Government Department of Education & Training, 2018**

Higher Education Students Statistics Collection.

<https://www.education.gov.au/selected-higher-education-statistics-2018-student-data>

In 2014, **57% of regional** students relocated for university studies compare to **27% of metropolitan** students.

**Baik et al.**

**Centre for the study of Higher Education, The University of Melbourne**

The first year experience in Australia universities; Finding from two decades. 1994-2014

[https://melbourne-cshe.unimelb.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/1513123/FYE-2014-FULL-report-FINAL-web.pdf](https://melbourne-cshe.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/1513123/FYE-2014-FULL-report-FINAL-web.pdf)

**28.4 per cent** of RRR students also come from a low socioeconomic background.

**Cassells et al.**

Bankwest Curtin Economic Centre, Focus on the State Series.

Educate Australia Fair? Education Inequality in Australia.

[https://bcec.edu.au/assets/099068\\_BCEC-Educate-Australia-Fair-Education-Inequality-in-Australia\\_WEB.pdf](https://bcec.edu.au/assets/099068_BCEC-Educate-Australia-Fair-Education-Inequality-in-Australia_WEB.pdf)



## **Volunteering statistics**

Research by Dr Lisel O'Dwyer from Flinders University has calculated that volunteering contributes a whopping \$290 billion to the Australian economy each year – almost 50 percent more than the \$200 billion estimated two years ago. For comparison mining contributed \$121 billion to the GDP at last estimate – and that figure has actually decreased by 1.4% in the last year - unlike volunteering which just keeps growing (Ethicaljobs.com.au, Nov 12, 2014)

“Emotions are not usually accounted for in economic impact statements but people already spend money on emotions; we spend money on things like books and entertainment to experience positive emotions and we pay for counselling to avoid negative emotions so why not put a dollar value on what we can experience in other areas of life?”

(Dr Lisel O'Dwyer, quoted in ethicaljobs.com.au, Nov 12, 2014)

<http://theconversation.com/why-rural-australia-is-facing-a-volunteer-crisis-95937>

<https://www.pwc.com.au/australia-in-transition/publications/understanding-the-unpaid-economy-mar17.pdf>