



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

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*

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*

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*

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*

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

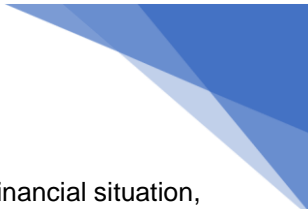
Mitchell Institute

Education opportunity in Australia, 2015

"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*



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

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

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.

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

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.