Regional benefits of the Higher Education Reform Package

The Education and Training portfolio supports Australians living in rural and regional communities through a range of programs. Regional, Indigenous and students from low socio-economic status (SES) backgrounds will benefit from the Australian Government’s Higher Education Reform Package.

Regional students will benefit enhancements to the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP). The reforms to the HEPPP will help remove the barriers that many regional and remote students face in high quality education and support. The HEPPP will be reformed to deliver three funding streams to universities—a loading for each eligible SES student, performance funding based on success rates of low SES and Indigenous students, and a National Priorities Pool to give a greater focus on rigorous evaluative research and to encourage collaboration between universities.

The Australian Government will also commit $15 million over four years to the establishment and maintenance of up to eight community-owned, regional study hubs across mainland Australia. The hubs will improve access to higher education for regional, rural and remote Australia. They will support regional students to study courses locally delivered by distance from any Australian university by providing greater access to study support and infrastructure.

Regional students will also benefit from increased support for sub-bachelor places. The Australian Government will extend demand driven funding to eligible sub-bachelor courses which will give students a better opportunity to obtain a relevant and recognised qualification more quickly.

The Australian Government will also commit $24 million over four years for Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships, which will support 1200 regional and remote students to undertake Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies. The scholarships are for undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational education students, and aim to improve access to educational opportunities for regional and remote students.

Students in the regions will also continue to benefit from the investment of more than $280 million over the next four years through regional loading to support the cost of educating students in regional and remote Australia.

For more information visit the [Higher Education Reform Package](#) webpage.