



Australian Government
Department of Education

Briefing Session 2024 Suburban University Study Hubs Program Application Round

June 2024

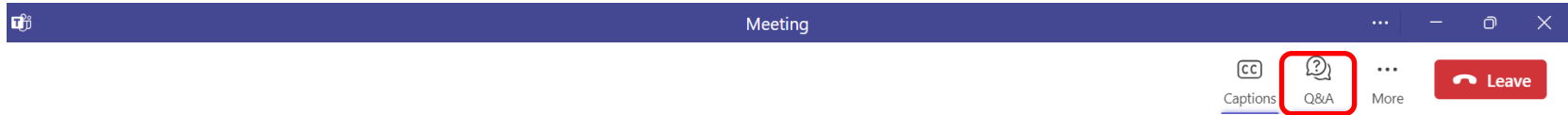




Acknowledgement of Country

House Keeping

Use the Q&A function to ask questions.



For any additional questions, please contact suburbanhubs@education.gov.au

[Frequently Ask Question](#) (FAQs) are on our website.

1. Program Overview



Program **History**

The Program was established in response to the 2023 Interim Report for the Australian Universities Accord (the Accord).

Priority Action 1 of the Accord Interim Report recommended:

Extend visible, local access to tertiary education by creating further Regional University Centres (Regional University Study Hubs) and establish a similar concept for suburban/metropolitan locations.

Key Data



To meet the skills gap:

- 80% tertiary attainment by 2050
- 90% of new jobs will require post-school qualifications

Domestic student commencements in higher education

- **Decreased by 8.2%**
- Low SES by SA1 **decreased by 11.7%**
- First Nations **decreased by 8%**
- Student with a disability **increased by 1.4%**

*Source: [Schools, 2022](#) | Australian Bureau of Statistics ([abs.gov.au](#)); Australian Universities Accord – Final Report

What are **Suburban University Study Hubs**?

Suburban University Study Hubs are facilities that improve access to tertiary education for underrepresented and disadvantaged students living in outer metropolitan and peri-urban areas.

Suburban University Study Hubs provide:

IT Infrastructure

Study spaces

Student
support
services

Academic skills
support

Suburban University Study Hubs are established to meet the specific needs of the local community.



Program Objectives

A successful Suburban University Study Hub will:

- Be provider agnostic welcoming any student studying at an Australian publicly funded tertiary education provider.
- Provide wrap-around supports and study facilities to improve access and scaffold student success.
- **Build readiness and increase aspiration** for tertiary study.
- Support students to **succeed in tertiary study** and beyond by creating links with local tertiary education providers, industry, and local community.



2. 2024 Application Round

Closing: 5pm AEST 29 July




Overview

The 2024 application round will support the establishment of **up to 14** new Suburban University Study Hubs

- Address the eligibility and key considerations outlined in the Program Guidelines and the Application Guide.
- Applications close: 5pm AEST, 29 July 2024
- Assessment Panel review: August – September 2024
- Recommendations to Minister for Education: September 2024
- Announcements: October 2024



Who can apply?

- Organisations must be, or able to become a **body corporate**.
 - Those proposing a Hub in:
 - A geographical location classified as '**Major Cities of Australia**' as per the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Australian Statistical Geographic Standards (ASGS) Remoteness Areas* classification; or '**Greater Darwin**' or '**Greater Hobart**' under the ABS ASGA *Greater Capital City Statistical Areas* classification; and
 - A **Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) locations** classified as **Quintile 1 or Quintile 2** according to the ABS Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD).
 - Those proposing **new hubs only**.
 - '**Fit and proper person**' as outlined in paragraph 6.2 of the *Higher Education Support (Fit and Proper Person) Instrument 2019*.
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Key Considerations

Applications will be considered based on the **location** of the proposed Suburban University Study Hub and **quality** of the application to service the **relative needs** of the **community**

Community need:

- Distance to existing campuses
- Higher education attainment rates
- Support for underrepresented and disadvantaged students (e.g. low SES, First Nations, and students with a disability).

Community involvement:

- Community representation on governance models to ensure a genuine place-based approach to supporting local students (for example, through establishing a local Board or steering committee).



Key Considerations

Applications will be considered based on the **location** of the proposed Suburban University Study Hub and **quality** of the application to service the **relative needs** of the **community**

Readiness to operate:

- Proposed and established partnerships with tertiary education providers and local industry.

Budget:

- An appropriate and sustainable budget with ongoing funding sources.

Geographic spread:

- The location of the proposed Hub is geographically dispersed from other Hubs or tertiary campuses.



Community Involvement

Applicants should consider ways to involve and engage the community the proposed Hub will serve

Boards & Committees

- Should include diverse members from the local community

Community partnerships in co-design

- Developing partnerships will provide expertise and resourcing in program creation and delivery.

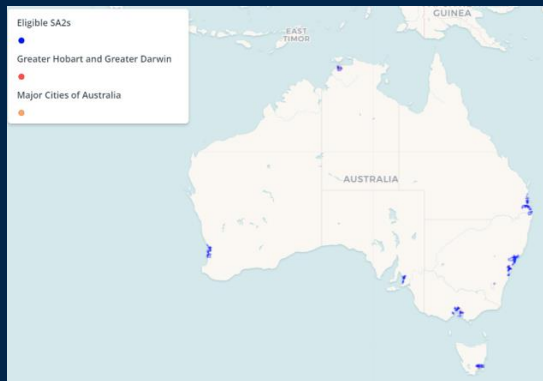
Careers, placements and internships

- Building relationships with local organisations that can be harnessed for events and activities that support student placements/internships and careers



Interactive Map

To assist applicants in identifying eligible areas, an [interactive map](#) has been provided

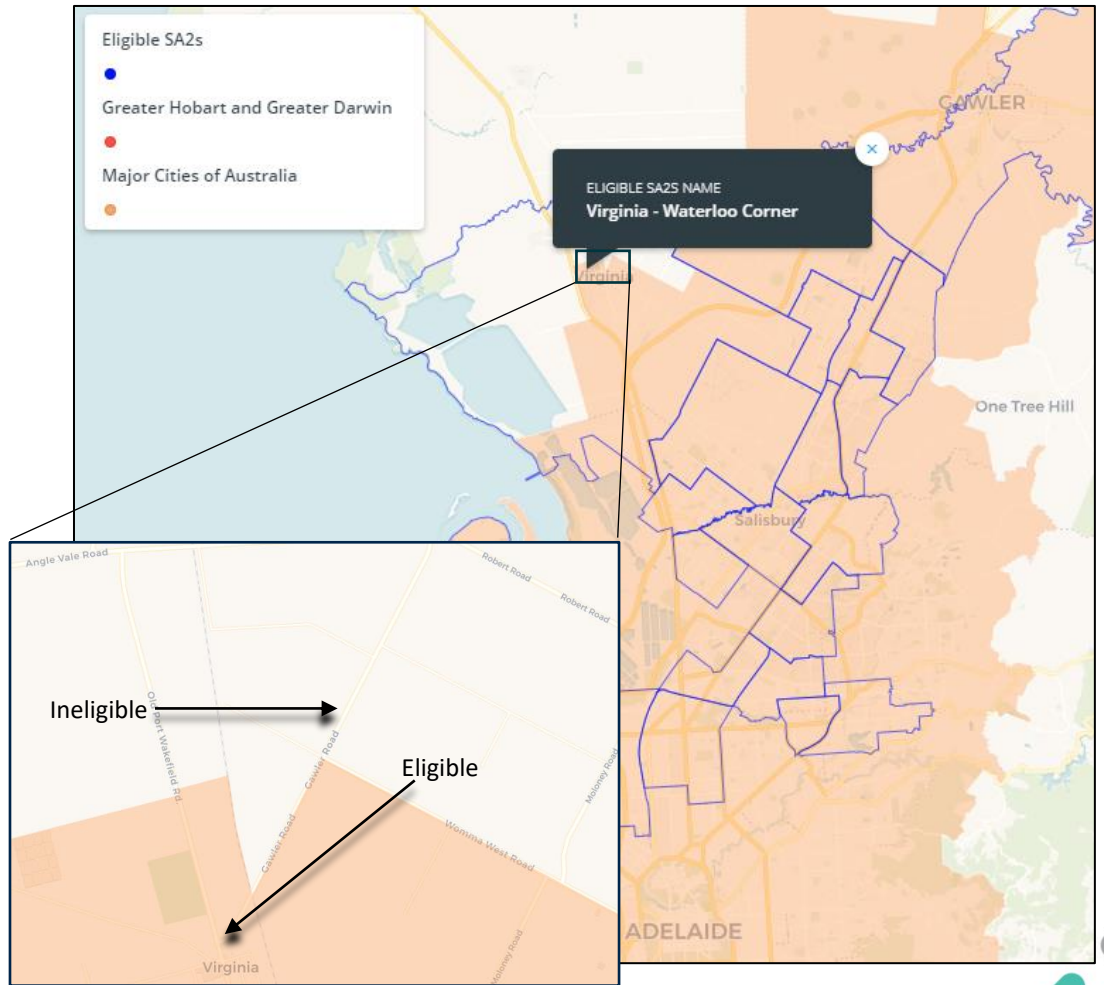
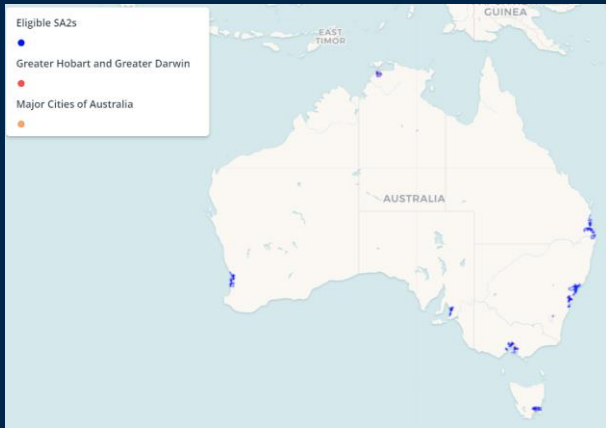


Applicants must meet both the **‘Major Cities of Australia’**; or **‘Greater Darwin’** or **‘Greater Hobart’** and **SA2 (Q1 and Q2)** classifications.

- Use the left mouse button drag the map to desired location.
- Zoom in using the scroll function on your mouse; or type in location using search function.
- Eligible areas must be contained within a blue line and be shaded in orange to meet this criterion.

Interactive Map

Locations within a blue line (SA2, Q1 or Q2) and coloured orange or red (Major City or Hobart/Darwin) are eligible



Funding

It is up to each applicant to determine the amount of funding they seek to establish a Suburban University Study Hub. Exact funding amounts will be dependent on the needs/circumstances of each applicant, with final amounts **subject to negotiation with the Program Delegate**. Applicants should consider:

- The ongoing operational costs
- Any capital works which may need to be undertaken
- Include all costs between 2024-25 and 2026-27, considering part-year expenditure in 2024-25.

What can funding be used for?

Funding can be used for costs associated with the **establishment** and **ongoing operation** of the Suburban University Study Hub.

Establishment Stage

- Capital works and/or lease of facilities
- Acquisition of electronic and physical resources
- Purchase of ICTs
- Renovation of facilities including painting, floor coverings, installation of walls etc. The program is not intended to fund large-scale capital works.

Ongoing Operational Stage

- Human resources
- Support resources
- Administrative expenses

Funding cannot be used to purchase property or land, or to undertake major capital works.




How to apply?

Please read the **Suburban University Study Hubs – 2024 Application Guide** and the **Suburban University Study Hubs – Program Guidelines 2024** before you commence.

- Complete an application including:
 - Application Form
 - Budget Proposal
 - Financial Viability Form
- Applications must be submitted via this [link](#):

5pm (AEST) 29 July 2024

Additional Information and Clarifying Discussions

- Applicants found suitable by the Assessment Panel may be asked for additional information or to attend a clarifying discussion (via Teams or phone) during the assessment process to clarify or verify claims made in their application.
 - Clarifying discussions are **not an opportunity to expand** on an application beyond what was included in the written submission.
 - All information relevant to the proposed Suburban University Study Hub should be provided in the written application.
 - Clarifying discussions will be at the discretion of the Assessment Panel and are not a requirement to be found suitable for funding.
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Support for developing your application

FAQs

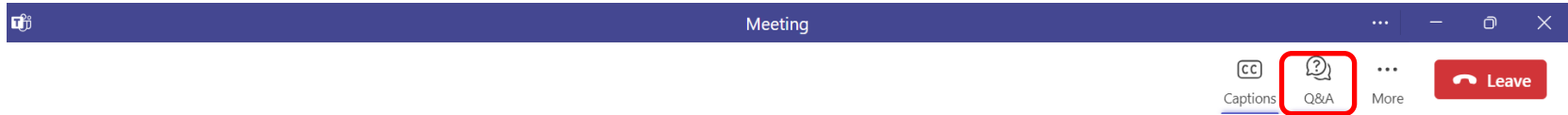
- The department has developed responses to a range of frequently asked questions. These are available on our website.
- The department will update the [FAQs](#) as needed throughout the round to ensure fair and equitable access to information.

DATA

- Please contact us at Suburbanhubs@education.gov.au for support.
- Location based data can be obtained from <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/search-by-area>
- Other data may be requested from University-Statistics@education.gov.au, noting there are associated costs. Refer to the FAQs for more information.

Questions

Use the Q&A function to write a question.



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