



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

**Subject: Improved support for regional higher education-
Implementation of Regional Study Hubs**

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to announce the release of a discussion paper on Implementation of Regional Study Hubs (RSHs) Initiative in response to the Australian Government's \$15.2 million funding commitment over four years to establish up to eight community-owned regional study hubs to improve access to higher education for regional, rural and remote Australia.

As you may be aware, the RSHs Program has been developed in response to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Reference Committee Senate Report on the Future Role and Contribution of Regional Capitals to Australia in late 2016. It addresses a policy gap in university provision for remote students who wish or need to remain in their local regional area for study.

The attached discussion paper provides a high-level overview of the RSHs Program and the department's approach to manage application and stakeholder consultation.

The department is seeking stakeholder feedback on the proposed criteria to assess successful applicants. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated on the proposed criteria by **5pm EST, Monday 5 March 2018** by emailing equity@education.gov.au.

If you have questions relating to this program or the consultation process, please contact Dr Paul Corcoran, Director, or Ms Ping Yu, Assistant Director, Equity Policy via the email above.

Please feel free to forward this information on to your networks as necessary.

We look forward to hearing from you as we work together through implementing this initiative to improve access to educational opportunities for regional students.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Robert Latta
Branch Manager
Quality and Access Branch
Higher Education Group
Australian Government Department of Education and Training

16 February 2018