



Regional Initiatives

Information on Regional initiatives is contained in the Education, Skills and Employment portfolio chapter of the [Regional Ministerial Budget Statement 2021-22 \(pp.94-114\)](#). The following table categorises department programs into a) exclusively regional and b) predominantly regional.

This table contains a preliminary split of programs, and corresponding financial details, to respond to questions from Senators at the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee. The categorisation has been undertaken to enable a response on 17 February 2022.

EXCLUSIVELY REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Funding for regional and remote schools: From 2018 to 2029, \$6.8 billion through the school location loading.

Supporting regional students and their aspirations: \$2 million over 2019-20 to 2021-2022 to raise aspirations and career awareness through the Rural Inspire program.

Future Leaders Program (FLP) pilot aims to test a model for strengthening the school leadership pipeline in regional, rural and remote schools. \$7.5 million (GST exclusive) over 2021 and 2022.

Support for non-government regional and remote schools to transition to the Direct Measure of Income (Choice and Affordability Fund): \$217 million, including \$151.6 million (33 per cent) over 2020-2029 for independent schools, and \$65.2 million (9 per cent) over 2020-2029 for Catholic schools.

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia (ICPA): Funding for the peak national parent body to provide representational policy advice. For the 2021-22 to 2022-23 this amounts to \$50,000 per annum.

More opportunities for regional higher education students: More than \$400 million over four years from 2020-21 in response to the Napthine Review, including but not limited to:

- a **Regional Education Commissioner** to oversee implementation of the Napthine Review response
- increased **Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding for regional university campuses**
- the **Tertiary Access Payment**
- **demand driven funding** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from regional and remote areas
- **Regional Research Collaboration Program**

PREDOMINANTLY REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Dollars included where available for the regional-only component.

Community Child Care Fund: addresses local barriers to child care services mostly in regional and remote areas.

Connected Beginnings helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be school ready, through wrap around support. Out of 24 current sites, 11 located in regional sites and 10 in remote locations.

Attracting and retaining teachers: High Achieving Teachers Program is recruiting over 400 teachers in 2020, 2021 and 2022, focusing on regional, rural and low socio-economic schools.

National Code for Boarding School Students (Sept 2021): provides principles for managing the movement of boarding school students across states, to prioritise their welfare and safety and minimise disruption to their education.

Support for Closing the Gap Target 5 'Students achieve their full learning potential', including the following regional initiatives:

- \$26m for City-County Partnerships to Improve Remote School Outcomes
- \$75m to scale up Studio Schools Australia with three new boarding schools in remote WA and NT.

AgMove: will support up to 10,000 relocations to regional, remote, or harvest areas to take up short-term agricultural work, for Australian job seekers and eligible temporary visa holders.

Harvest Trail Service (HTS): providers link job seekers with harvest employers to fill job vacancies in 16 Harvest Areas covering all major horticultural regions.

The **Local Jobs Program** was extended in July 2021 to all 51 Employment Regions, supporting employment growth and helping to upskill job seekers into jobs that will be in demand now and post-recovery, using locally designed solutions.

EXCLUSIVELY REGIONAL PROGRAMS**PREDOMINANTLY REGIONAL PROGRAMS**

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Regional University Centres (RUC) program: \$74.2 million has been announced for the program since 2018-19 for the establishment and operation of 26 RUCs (with up to eight more to be funded in 2022). RUCs are facilities regional and remote students can use to study tertiary courses locally, delivered by distance, from any Australian institution.

Regional Loading Program, providing around \$77 million in 2022, to support Table A universities with regional campuses to offset the disparity in costs and revenues compared to major city campuses.

Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships (RRES): \$62.6 million has been provided from 2017-18 to 2022-23 for the RRES Program which provides scholarships for regional and remote students to support the costs of undertaking further study (Certificate IV to PhD level).

Destination Australia Program provides scholarships for Australian and international students to study at tertiary education providers in regional Australia. The Program has provided \$76 million for 1820 scholarships at 199 campuses between 2020 and 2022.

AAIP - Rural and Regional Skills Shortage Incentive (apprenticeships): \$1000 per worker.

Remote Pilots – Foundation Skills for Your Future Program for language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills.

Australian Apprenticeship Wage Subsidy (AAWS) trial to support apprenticeships in skills needs occupations in rural and regional areas and encourage employers to engage apprentices.
