

## **RURAL AND REMOTE – ISSUES FOR TASMANIAN POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS**

### Transport:

- There is essentially an 8:00-4:00 day for the bus system with no flexibility
- This is exacerbated the further students live from 'centrality'.
- The time of bus trips/length of day eg to Geeveston, Smithton, St Mary's is prohibitive for students
- Quality and age of buses servicing 'rural' areas is poor.
- There is a financial impact on students over the age of 18, particularly in outer zones because once they turn 18 they must pay a full fare which is prohibitive.
- There is a financial impact to international students to travel to Tasmania because of the extra cost and limited availability of access to the island.
- There is limited access for international students to move around the state and even within metropolitan areas. For example there are no bus services at night or on the weekend to the accommodation at Clarence Campus, where the student accommodation is located. This makes it difficult for students to obtain part time work or puts them in a vulnerable position of walking alone long distances after hours.

### Accommodation/living away from home:

- There are not enough suitable supervised places.
- There is a significant extra cost associated with living away from home.
- There are social repercussions of living away from home and the family dislocation and lack of support for the student that results.

### Lack of local options:

- Requires development of appropriate infrastructure and improved networking to existing structures.

### Funding:

- Changes to the Independence Threshold have resulted in a disadvantage to middle income rural families.
- Additional costs of delivering in rural areas are not matched by funding.