



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY QUEENSLAND SUBMISSION

Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education

August 2017

Introduction

1. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the *Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education*.
2. CCIQ wishes to lend our support to the submission to this review made by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), of which CCIQ is a member.
3. Consistent with ACCI's position, CCIQ has long called for strategies targeted at the unique needs of regional Queensland with a focus on providing students with the knowledge and skills to contribute to the growth of their local economy.
4. Further to ACCI's submission, we have provided below further comment on two issues that we believe to be critical to positive outcomes for students in regional areas; employability skills and encouraging a "study to stay" mindset.

Employability Skills

5. Employers, particularly those running small businesses, are consistently reporting the absence of "employability skills" in new entrants to the workforce. Base skills, such as team work, communication and even punctuality and cleanliness are core qualities that are in high demand by employers.
6. In order to address this issue, we recommend government invest in initiatives that will build links between students, local industry and the education sector in regional areas. Educational programs that incorporate practical experience with a local business could go a long way towards ensuring that students possess these critical employability skills. Such programs have the additional benefit of providing students with direct insight into the industries operating in their local region, highlighting potential career paths previously unexplored.
7. Preparing students in this way not only benefits regional youth as they transition from school to employment but also supports regional employers in growing their businesses, supported by a capable workforce. This, in turn, builds the strength of regional economies and boosts the profile of these regions as attractive places to do business.

Study to Stay

8. CCIQ strongly supports policies that encourage the growth of regional economies.
9. As such, we would welcome educational initiatives that foster entrepreneurship in students and facilitate the adoption of a “study to stay” mentality. The flow on effect can be significant; as more students graduate and build their own businesses, the economy strengthens, the local area grows, the status of the regions is heightened and more students choose to build their lives in these areas.
10. Entrepreneurship can be encouraged by forging strong relationships between schools and local industry. This could be achieved through, as an example, mentoring programs that link local business owners to students, providing an on the ground understanding of how a business is run. Having the support of a local business mentor could remove the fear of the unknown for young entrepreneurs, and encourage them to take steps to start their own businesses in the regions.

Further Enquires

11. CCIQ thanks the Department for the opportunity to provide comment and welcome any feedback. Please contact Kelly Motley, Policy Advisor, at kmotley@cciq.com.au for matters relating to this submission.