

## **Organisation: Understanding Mining Pty Ltd**

**Question 1. How can government, institutions and communities better promote the valuable and unique experience of studying and living in regional Australia?**

Job and work experience opportunities (e.g. agribusiness, mining and mining services)

**Question 2. What are the barriers to regional destinations and their education institutions hosting more international students?**

Cost of travel (to/from), perception of lifestyle (crime, isolation, cost, etc), availability of decent but low cost housing, linkages to potential employers.

**Question 3. How can metropolitan and regional education institutions work together to create regional study opportunities for international students in ways that benefit the students, the regional communities and the institutional partners?**

Focus on true regional institutions (not those city-based with regional campuses) and promote incoming study abroad opportunities linked to short term work experience (paid and/or internships).

**Question 4. What are the best ways to communicate the benefits of spending time in regional Australia to prospective international students and their parents?**

Unique experience and access to work experience leading to job opportunities both in Australia and globally (e.g. water supply, renewable energy, logistics).

**Question 5. Given the strong interplay between tourism and education, particularly in regional settings, how can government, institutions and the community capitalise on the relationship, map its value and promote regional strengths?**

Connect unique experiences (iconic locations) to education - i.e. one size does not fit all..

**Question 6. What role could fee structures and scholarships, education agent promotions, and changes to government policy settings play to encourage more students to study in regional Australia (e.g. migration incentives)?**

Migration incentives are important, but promotion of regional expertise (not just global rankings of institutions) and linkages to industry - guaranteed work experience (preferably paid) is better than scholarships or lower fees.

**Question 7. Is there a need for greater insights into the motivations and the experience of international students in regional areas relative to metropolitan areas, using instruments such as the International Student Barometer and/or other targeted research?**

No - just get on with it.

**Question 8. Any other comments?**

Sort out linkage to regional development strategies and support local Government in delivering. Do not just throw more money at the institutions. Also sort out the upper level of TAFEs and their role in international education (skills in addition to knowledge).