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| Showing the Department of Education and Training logo and the heading titled 'Research Snapshot'. |
| **June 2016** |
| Study locations of international students in 2015 |

In 2015, around five per cent of onshore international student enrolments in Australia were based in regional campuses of Australian institutions. Queensland had the highest proportion in regional campuses (9%) followed by NSW (7%) and Victoria (2%) (Table 1).The majority (86%) of enrolments in regional campuses across Australia were in ten local areas of NSW, Victoria and Queensland (Table 2).

New South Wales has 93.1 per cent (or 224,196) of its total international student enrolments in capital areas and 6.9 per cent (or 16,615 enrolments) in regional area.

Victoria has 97.6 per cent (or 190,148) of its total international student enrolments in capital areas and 2.4 per cent (or 4,722 enrolments) in regional area.

Queensland has 90.6 per cent (or 92,624) of its total international student enrolments in capital areas and 9.4 per cent (or 9,599 enrolments) in regional area.

South Australia has 99.7 per cent (or 31,868) of its total international student enrolments in capital areas and 0.3 per cent (or 111 enrolments) in regional area.

Western Australia has 99.7 per cent (or 49,752) of its total international student enrolments in capital areas and 0.3 per cent (or 162 enrolments) in regional area.

Tasmania has 99.7 per cent (or 4,962) of its total international student enrolments in capital areas and 2.3 per cent (or 116 enrolments) in regional area.

Northern Territory has 99.6 per cent (or 2,137) of its total international student enrolments in capital areas and 0.4 per cent (or 9 enrolments) in regional area.

Australian Capital Territory has 100 per cent (or 12,780) of its total international student enrolments in capital areas and none in regional area.

In total, 95.1 per cent (or 608,467) of all states and territories’ international student enrolments is in capital areas and 4.9 per cent (or 31,334 enrolments) is in regional area.


*\*Capital areas include all state and territory capital cities and the Gold Coast.*

*\*\* There were 3,463 enrolments without a study location reported.*

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| **Table 2. Top ten locations for international student enrolments in regional areas, 2015** | | | |
| **State / Territory** | **Location** | **Number** | **Share (%)** |
| NSW | South Coast | 6,985 | 22.3% |
| NSW | Hunter | 5,670 | 18.1% |
| QLD | Sunshine Coast | 3,145 | 10.0% |
| QLD | Tropical North Queensland | 2,523 | 8.1% |
| QLD | Northern Queensland | 1,971 | 6.3% |
| VIC | Geelong | 1,838 | 5.9% |
| NSW | Undefined | 1,751 | 5.6% |
| NSW | New England North West | 1,087 | 3.5% |
| NSW | North Coast | 1,068 | 3.4% |
| VIC | Ballarat | 883 | 2.8% |
| *Other* | *Other locations* | *4,413* | *14.1%* |
| **Total** | | **31,334** | **100.0%** |

*As shown in Table 1, the combined total of enrolments in regional areas of SA, WA, Tasmania, NT and ACT was less than 400.*

**Nationality**

Although China and India were the top source countries for enrolments in regional areas, only around five percent of total enrolments from each country were in regional areas. In contrast, nearly 16 per cent of enrolments from the USA were in regional areas, making it the 3rd largest source country of regional area enrolments, although it is ranked as the 17th largest source country for total enrolments.

**Level of study and field of education**

As shown in Chart 1, enrolments in regional areas were more likely to be in higher education, schools or non-award than in VET or ELICOS. Over half (54%) of international students studying in regional campuses were enrolled in higher education courses.

In both regional and metropolitan areas, the majority of higher education enrolments were in bachelor or masters (by coursework) degree courses. However, 15 per cent of enrolments in regional areas were in postgraduate research, compared with 6 per cent in metropolitan areas. There was a higher propensity for higher education students in regional areas to study in the STEM2 fields (37% of all enrolments), compared with those in metropolitan areas (26%).

The first bar shows the share of international student enrolments in regional areas by sector – HE (54.1%), VET (13.8%), ELICOS (16.6%), Schools (7.8%) and Non-award (7.7%). 

The second bar shows the share of international student enrolments in capital areas by sector – HE (41.5%), VET (26.9%), ELICOS (22.9%), Schools (3.0%) and Non-award (5.8%). 


*\* Including foundation and (incoming) study abroad courses.*

**Age and gender**

There was little difference in age or gender between international students in regional or metropolitan areas. In both cases, the most common age range was 20 to 24 years (42% of total) and around 46 per cent were female.

**Examples of how international education contributes to regional communities**

It has been estimated that international students studying and living in the NSW region of Armidale contributed $33 million to the local economy and supported 243 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs. Furthermore, international students studying in metropolitan areas can make a significant indirect contribution to regional economies. For example, expenditure by international students in Melbourne was estimated to contribute $888 million to the economy of regional Victoria and supported 5,478 FTE jobs¹.