



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional  
Development  
*Australia*

## ADELAIDE HILLS, FLEURIEU AND KANGAROO ISLAND

# Media release

## New Study Hub Funded for Kangaroo Island!

February 2025

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island (RDA AHFKI) is thrilled that the submission for a Regional University Study Hub on Kangaroo Island has been a success, following the announcement on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February by the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education. The study hub is part of a \$66.9 million initiative by the Albanese Government, intended to remove barriers for regional students across Australia in accessing high-quality tertiary education.

The funding announcement for the Kangaroo Island Study Hub represents a significant milestone for the education landscape on the island. Through our ongoing collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships, we are paving the way for a brighter future by reducing the barriers hindering access to quality education and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

This announcement is reward for the leadership of Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island who funded and led the development of a business case for the hub. It is equally rewarding for the broader community who participated in the community consultation that informed the business case, including Kangaroo Island Community Education, students, industry, business groups, community groups, Kangaroo Island Council, and individuals who believed in the need for improved access to tertiary education.

The Kangaroo Island Study Hub will be located in Kingscote, providing 24/7 study spaces with high-speed internet, on-site support in business hours, and opportunity for students to spend time with their peers – all at no charge. The Regional University Study Hub program is a proven model that increases enrolment and completion of tertiary studies (university and Vocational Education and Training). Providing a place in region with support, removes barriers to education by allowing students to study remotely, overcoming the lack of

suitable study space or environment at home, massively reducing costs, and enabling combined work-study options.

The Kangaroo Island Study Hub is expected to deliver many positive outcomes for the island including increased participation, retention and completion in tertiary education, enhanced community engagement including between industry and students, and strengthened workforce development. By collaborating with Rural City of Murray Bridge Council who already operate regional study hubs at Berri, Murray Bridge, and Victor Harbor, the Kangaroo Island Study Hub is expected to fast track to opening (expected July) and employ a locally based staff member.

With the establishment of the South Coast Study Hub at Victor Harbor, and now the Kangaroo Island Study Hub at Kingscote, RDA AHFKI is delivering on key economic development priorities that also align with a commitment to regional leadership capacity, outlined in their **Strategic Plan 2022-2025**. By helping students attain highly sought skills and qualifications, we can impact on labour and skills shortages, meet the evolving needs of our workforce, and drive economic growth and prosperity across our region.

**“By design Regional University Study Hubs are community-led and Kangaroo Island has again shown how strong its community is. Not only have a group of residents been working together for several year on options for better access to tertiary education, when we consulted with the broader community, the message was clear they knew how important a Study Hub was to lifting tertiary education access and completion rates. RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island has worked hard to make the most of this excellent program and as a result we will now have two Regional University Study Hubs in the region.”**

*~ Steve Shotton, Director, Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island*

**“The Rural City of Murray Bridge is ecstatic to receive news of funding for the Kangaroo Island Study Hub. This hub will be operated by through the same model that oversees study hubs at Berri, Victor Harbor and Murray Bridge and staffed by locals in each region. The Rural City of Murray Bridge is proud to enable this new hub and expand the opportunities for regional South Australians to access tertiary study.”**

*~ Heather Barclay, CEO, Rural City of Murray Bridge*

#### **Media contact**

##### **Steve Shotton**

Director of Regional Development

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island

**M:** 0407 713 239

**E:** [stephens@rdahc.com.au](mailto:stephens@rdahc.com.au)