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ADELAIDE HILLS, FLEURIEU AND KANGAROO ISLAND

Media release

Kangaroo Island Study Hub Official Opening Celebration

November 2025

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island (RDA AHFKI) and the Rural City of Murray Bridge (the hub operator) cordially invite the community to celebrate the official opening of the Kangaroo Island Study Hub – a transformative milestone in education access for island residents.

The opening event marks the realisation of years of community advocacy and collaborative effort to bring tertiary education opportunities to Kangaroo Island. As an exciting new addition to the established Murray River & Fleurieu Study Hubs, the Kangaroo Island Study Hub represents a significant step forward in removing educational barriers for regional students.

The study hub is part of the Australian Government's \$66.9 million initiative to double the number of Regional University Study Hubs across Australia, bringing the total to 56 hubs nationwide. This program is very successful, with current hubs supporting over 5,200 students across the country in 2024.

Located in Kingscote, the Kangaroo Island Study Hub provides students enrolled in TAFE, and any Australian university course, with free 24/7 study spaces equipped with high-speed internet, on-site support during business hours, and opportunities to connect with peers. This community-led initiative enables tertiary students of any age to pursue higher education without having to travel or relocate off the island, massively reducing costs and enabling combined work-study options.

The island's businesses will benefit enormously. Students will have an option to stay on the island and study remotely, meaning there's more people with more skills available to employers. Existing staff now have

another option to undertake study to grow their skills or adapt to new employment opportunities. This enables career pathways and helps deliver the skills required by industry and public services.

The Kangaroo Island Study Hub is expected to deliver significant positive outcomes including increased participation, retention and completion in tertiary education, enhanced community engagement between industry and students, and strengthened workforce development to address local skills shortages.

The official opening celebration will bring together community members, students, local leaders, and stakeholders who have championed this initiative.

“By design Regional University Study Hubs are community-led and the initiative of a core group of leaders, and the willingness of the broader community to engage during the consultation phase of this hub’s development, were critical to the successful funding and opening of this hub. We have already seen the great success of the Fleurieu Study Hub in its first year of operation and I’m very confident the island is going to embrace this hub.”

~ Steve Shotton, CEO, RDA AHFKI

“The Kangaroo Island Study Hub will form part of our existing Murray River & Fleurieu Study Hub program, providing free access and support for anyone wanting to study post-secondary school education. We are proud to share our success in this program with the Kangaroo Island Council and community, and look forward to working together to build the region’s skill base.”

~ Wayne Thorley, Mayor, Rural City of Murray Bridge

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, 13 November 2025

Time: 11:30am – 1:00pm

Location: Kangaroo Island Study Hub, Kingscote

Registration and event information is available at: <https://events.humanitix.com/kangaroo-island-study-hub-opening>

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