



**David Littleproud MP**  
Federal Member for Maranoa

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## **Media Statement**

**DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP**  
Member for Maranoa

**THE HON BARNABY JOYCE MP**  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources  
Member for New England

**SENATOR THE HON SIMON BIRMINGHAM**  
Minister for Education and Training  
Senator for South Australia

## **JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

7 March 2017

### **Revitalising education in Maranoa**

The Coalition Government has launched a comprehensive review to boost outcomes for regional, rural and remote students not just at school, but also as they go on to further study, training and employment.

Mr David Littleproud, the Member for Maranoa said the review would hear stories and feedback about regional and rural education from across the country and he called for local educators, students, families, employers and the local community to have their say on how to better educational outcomes for rural kids.

“The Coalition is committed to giving children every opportunity to ensure they succeed, no matter whether they live in Longreach, Charleville or Brisbane or Sydney,” said.

“I call on the education community, families, employer and community groups right across Maranoa to take part in this review process, because your input and suggestions will be heard and will inevitably help shape the future of education in regional and rural Australia.

“We’re the only party that really appreciates the tyranny of distance and takes a stand for the bush and I am pleased that this review delivers on our commitment to better rural educational outcomes and look to solutions to enhance student support - both in school and into pathways beyond school.”

Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Nationals Barnaby Joyce said the review would be critical in addressing the key barriers and challenges that impact on the educational outcomes of regional, rural and remote students.

“The Coalition Government’s independent comprehensive review into equity of education access for rural and regional students will seek fresh ideas and fresh thinking to bridge the divide,” Minister Joyce said.

“There’s a clear disparity between education in the bush and the city – this seeks to address the gap of achievement, aspiration and access to higher education faced by regional students.

“That’s why we are going out to the edges, to hear from our regional communities in order to find solutions to build the skills of regional Australians to allow our youth better jobs and better opportunities no matter where they live.”

Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham said the independent review into regional, rural and remote education would be led by Emeritus Professor John Halsey of Flinders University.

Minister Birmingham said regional education needed to be looked at as a “complete puzzle” and not as separate school, higher education and training sectors.

“This review will look at education from school entry to job success and how we can improve results for rural and regional people,” Minister Birmingham said.

“Approximately one third of regional and remote students do not complete Year 12 or an equivalent unit of study and that number rises to almost two thirds of very remote students.

“We must drive and better set policy to encourage ambition among our country students. Regional and remote students made up just 18.8 per cent of domestic undergraduate students at universities, compared to making up 26.4 per cent of the population in 2016.

Minister Birmingham said Professor Halsey commenced his career as a teacher and was a principal of two schools in South Australia and his experience spans across numerous positions outside of the classroom on advisory boards and in educational leadership roles.

“His extensive knowledge and experience in rural and remote education and passion for the sustainability of rural schools and communities make him ideally suited to lead this review.”

The review will be conducted in consultation with key stakeholders and will benefit country people and country communities.

For more information on how to be involved please visit: <https://www.education.gov.au/independent-review-regional-rural-and-remote-education>

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