



Taree
Universities
Campus

Go Further Report

2020 - 2023



Taree Universities Campus acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, learn and work - the Biripi and Worimi people - and pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

We recognise their continuing connection to land, water & sky. We extend our respect to all knowledge holders and their contributions both past and present.

At TUC, we pride ourselves on being an inclusive organisation dedicated to the success of all aspiring regional students in going further with their education whilst staying close to home and on country.

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Meet TUC

1.1 An Overview of Our Campus

Taree Universities Campus is dedicated to connecting people to learning and opportunities close to home. This is so locals right here on the Mid Coast can reach their highest potential and gain access to career & personal development whilst remaining close to their family, country & community.

Taree Universities Campus aims to facilitate successful graduation from tertiary studies through practical measures such as safe after-hours learning spaces, free internet and computer access as well as in-person support in navigating the university landscape.

However, our service aims to dive much deeper. We know that campus camaraderie, peer engagement and holistic support are just as critical as practical resources. Our Campus aims to be both a hub and a haven for those who are ready to invest time and energy into their personal growth. The positive impacts of their personal success reach far and wide to their friends, family and broader community.

We're here to help you go further, close to home.

Taree Universities Campus (TUC) is part of the Regional University Centres initiative funded by the Australian Government. We are a not-for-profit community driven organisation. Regional University Centres help students in regional and remote areas access higher education without having to leave their community. They provide student support and campus-style facilities for students who study online.

We are not a university; rather, we provide support and services to residents of the MidCoast LGA in order to make graduation from online university study more achievable.

We have partnered with key universities to offer their students more tailored in-person support. However, ANYONE living in the MidCoast Local Government Area who is enrolled to study at university or TAFE online can register now to enjoy the FREE services & facilities available at our Campus.



About Our Logo

The 'U' shape reflects the distinctive structure of Martin Bridge at the entrance to Taree, in turn promoting the idea of 'bridging the gap' between our residents and university access.

Bridges are also prevalent throughout the MidCoast, which has been used as a way to signify how the university intends to bring our towns together.

The key phrase "Go further close to home" captures our desire to support MidCoast residents in extending themselves to their fullest potential, all whilst enjoying the security and familiarity of their home towns.

Meet TUC 1.2 Our Region

The MidCoast Region of New South Wales is an exciting intersection of many industries, landscapes and lifestyles.

It encompasses lush forests - including the World Heritage Listed Barrington Tops - bordered by rolling grasslands that support a thriving agricultural industry. It also boasts a stunning portion of the NSW coastline, home to the largest producer of crustaceans and of Sydney Rock Oysters in the state.

The MidCoast of NSW comprises 196 towns and villages and a population of approximately 94,500. The area works like a hub and spoke region, with main towns catering for smaller surrounding town and villages:

- **Taree** hosts the region's public hospital, airport and train service. It also contains large-scale sporting, entertainment and cultural facilities.
- **Forster-Tuncurry** offer strong hospitality, tourism, lifestyle and retirement living opportunities.
- **Gloucester** is home to much of the region's cattle-raising, dairying and mixed farming enterprise.



Meet TUC

1.3 Statement from Chair



I am indeed fortunate to have this opportunity to reflect on the early years of Taree Universities Campus (TUC). This period has been peppered with unimagined challenges, often unforeseen champions, and multi-faceted growth, not solely of the organisation itself but also of those associated with it.

We have navigated from being a fledgling operation charting a new direction to one that's experienced in delivering learning opportunities for our community, and the development of other resources and imaginative ideas.

Looking back offers a benchmark from which to gauge change. In mid-2019, our MidCoast area – along with a large part of Australia – was experiencing extreme and prolonged drought conditions. Despite this major distraction, local business and community leaders, together with our political representatives, the tertiary education sector and others, rallied to support the concept of a Regional University Centre (RUC) for the area, and for it to be based in Taree. Accordingly, a small working group prepared our application to the Federal Government for funding under the relatively new RUC Program initiative.

The catastrophic 2019 bushfires in our area delayed the submission deadline, and the announcement of successful applications was deferred due to the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak in early 2020. In June of that year, we received advice that funding would be awarded; grant conditions were finalised four months later; and four months after that, at the beginning of 2021, we were ready to receive our first students. Then came the disruption of the devastating March 2021 flood which affected our premises, employees, students and, of course, many other local livelihoods and businesses.

Arguably, drought, fire, pestilence, and flood honed levels of resilience which stood us in good stead for the years to come. Covid forced many universities to create online courses for students who wished to

continue their studies during prolonged shutdowns. This created greater awareness of the difficulties associated with online learning away from a university campus, providing further validation for RUCs such as TUC.

Among TUC's greatest strengths has been its staff so capably led by CEO Donna Ballard. We have also received tremendous support from individuals and organisations within our community. Moreover, we have forged strong associations with our university partners, our schools, our businesses, our Indigenous leaders, the three tiers of government, the nation-wide RUC network. These connections have supplemented our agency and avenues to explore innovative ways to enhance a desire for learning and thus further develop a local culture of learning, especially – but not solely – among our younger residents. In these ways we believe we can promote the growth of human, economic and social capital in the MidCoast for the benefit of all.

Throughout these early years of path-finding and development, our Board of Directors, all members of our local community and with different but, importantly, complementary expertise and experiences, has been an essential mainstay. Soon we will move to our new long-term premises at 2 Pulteney Street Taree which has the potential to stimulate further growth in a variety of ways. No doubt new challenges but also new opportunities will arise. Regardless, I am confident of an exciting and enduring future for TUC.

Dr Alison McIntosh
Chair

Meet TUC 1.4 Board Profile



Dr Alison McIntosh
Chair



Graham Brown OAM
Treasurer & Secretary



Lisa Proctor
Board Member



Steve Atkins
Board Member



Maurie Stack OAM
Board Member



Pastor Russell Saunders OAM
Board Member



Edmond Roy
Board Member

Meet TUC 1.5 A Statement from the CEO

I am grateful for being granted the opportunity to be the CEO of Taree Universities Campus in its establishing years. Reflecting on what has been achieved in these first three formative years is beyond what I had imagined as possible when first setting goals in a small one desk office in 2020.



The Taree Universities Campus has been carefully nurtured and supported by the commitment of a dedicated Board who, since our inception, have volunteered their time to bring their vision for a Regional University Campus to fruition. With their guidance, supported by Federal funding from the Department of Education, together we have created something truly remarkable close to home here on the Mid Coast. I am honored to continue learning from the group of local leaders.

From our humble beginnings in the Stacks Finance building in 2021, TUC has made significant strides in connecting with the community and supporting students to pursue education locally. We've engaged with a diverse group of students, spanning various ages, locations, courses and work statuses. Notably, 55% of our 263 students are under 30 years old, indicating that they choose to study in the MidCoast area due to TUC's presence.

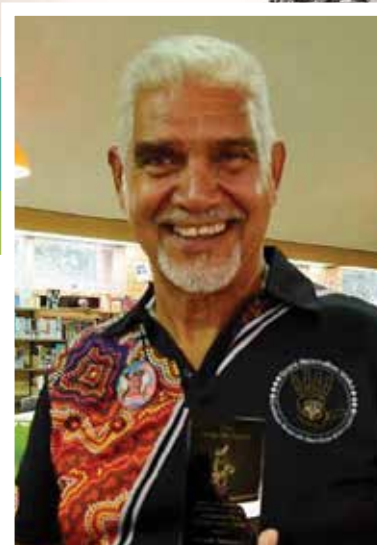
Our team has grown to 10 employees; their efforts, both full-time and part-time, have led to remarkable achievements. Collaborations with other community organizations, such as CareerQuip, the Youth Arts Festival have been highlights.

Our Celebration of Success was perhaps the most uplifting summary of the impact we've been able to have thus far. On that night, the stories of thirteen students completing their degree were shared by Campus Coordinator Marlo Slavin. The night captured the students' pride with family and friends present, and created a true taste of what a connected community can achieve.

TUC continues to eliminate barriers to education, whether financial, geographical, or confidence-related. We've empowered individuals on their educational journey and fostered partnerships with grassroots organisations. Our philosophy centres on clarity of purpose and finding solutions that benefit both individuals and the community at large, from improving education to bridging skill gaps and fostering economic development.

Looking ahead, we're excited about our permanent home at 2 Pulteney Street Taree, starting in 2023. Building a sense of place and community will be our primary focus in the coming years.

Donna Ballard
Chief Executive Officer



Meet TUC

1.6 A Statement from Uncle Russ

The reason I wanted to be on the Taree Universities Campus board and got excited about it is because I see potential for my community. In the past, I've seen people from our area inspired to go to university and pursue their careers. But it's not always that simple.

Many of them went to big cities like Sydney for their studies, but they faced difficulties, especially in the first or second year, and some even had their relationships fall apart due to the distance. I know many people in Taree, many on the poverty line or just battling to live like everybody else. Taree Universities Campus is a place they can come to, do their study and get better and achieve, get their career and yet they can go back home at night to THEIR homes, to their families and sit down and have a meal and have their bed to sleep in. That's what got me started on this journey.

I've spent time working in schools and I've seen many going all the way to year 12, and they're excited! They sit down with me, sharing their hopes and I can say, "hey, I know a place now, you don't have to leave home and get your study and further your career." So, it's given me a tool that I can use to encourage my people now.

My mother was the one that really came out in education. When they first started hiring Aboriginal Education Assistants (AEAs), my mum was among the chosen few. With Aboriginal kids that go to school, some truancy and other little problems were being faced, their idea was to employ Aboriginal people.

I was just starting high school and we had a full house with ten kids. My mum was special, making sure we had food on the table, clean clothes, and all the love in the world. Then one day, out of the blue, at the dinner table she says, "I'm heading to Sydney for university. I might be gone for a month or so." You can imagine the shock on our faces!

We all stopped chewing and looked at her. I asked, "Who's gonna cook our dinners?" "Oh, don't worry about your dinner, Russell. Your father will look after you. He

can cook, and your sisters there, they all can cook." And so that was that and we were all worried.

Mum had only received education on the mission, up to fourth class. But she went for it, and it took her a few years. There's this beautiful picture of her in her graduation gear, standing tall with her diploma. That was a very proud moment for our mum. She returned to work at Taree Primary as a fully trained aide.

Mum started to work there at school and was shocked, she said "oh no, if I knew how you was treated at this school, I wouldn't have sent you". At a staff meeting she asked to speak, saying "I've been coming here and I've been watching, observing things and speaking up. One thing I really would love, is for these children to learn and know is my people's language. I hear you speak in French and German, why can't they learn the language of us?"

Mum's not here now, but she'd be looking down on us as we do Welcome to Country in language now - she'd be so proud. And to see it taught in the schools - it's finally happened. Mum was educated, and through her motivation my sister Kim & brother Michael both became a qualified primary school teachers. I've just spent the last 40 years in education, talking and helping teachers and guiding them. She planted that seed into us a long time ago.

Now being here with Taree Universities Campus, I'm excited to be part of it. To see this up and running is an asset to Taree and to the community, Aboriginal and non Aboriginal. It's a big plus for us all.

Pastor Russell Saunders OAM
Board Member



Some of our first cohort of Graduands at our inaugural Celebration of Success in December 2022. This was an incredible milestone for us, both as a Campus team as well as our first students who trusted us to share their study journey with them.

This was also our way of facilitating a completion-of-studies celebration for students who may not have been able to participate in their own graduation ceremonies due to distance.



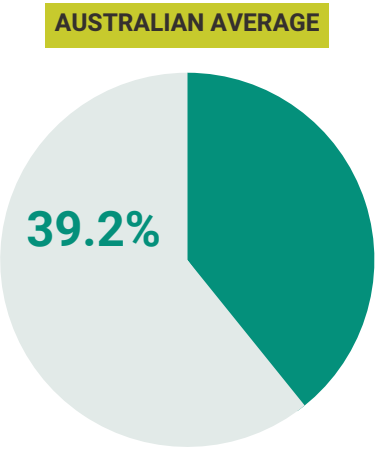
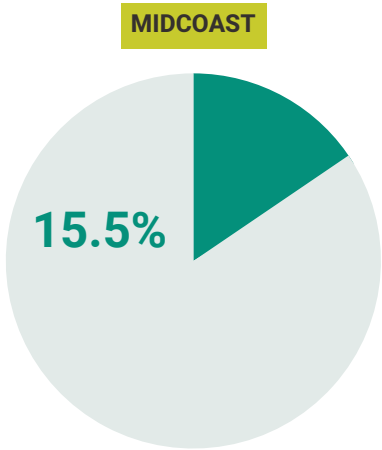


Where We Came From

2.1 The Needs of Our Residents

Research conducted prior to the establishment of the campus found a concerning lack in a number of areas that relates to education access and the prevalence of degree-qualified personnel in the region.

This research found that the MidCoast fell behind national averages in the areas of university attendance, much less successful completion.



Residents aged 15-34 years with a Bachelors Degree or Higher¹.

Further survey data also indicates that, of the MidCoast population attending University, less than 18% are likely to complete their studies.

This shows that support is needed not only to encourage enrolment in a degree, but completion of studies thereafter.

¹.Taree Universities Campus was established in 2019. The data above was drawn from the 2016 Census.



Where We Came From 2.2 The Needs of Our Region

On a community level, the lack of qualified professionals accessible to our residents - either as fellow locals obtaining degrees or other professionals moving to the area - has been an ongoing cause for concern in a number of key areas.

At the time of the submission, the population of the Mid Coast was forecasted to increase by 20.4% to 113,147 by 2036. This growth would only serve to compound the issue of a critical lack of professionals to meet the needs of our residents.

Areas and industries identified² as requiring a solution to increase the level of personnel and expertise in the MidCoast region included:

- **Health Care**
 - Allied health
 - Physiotherapy
 - Increased ability of Donor Services Nursing Assistants (DSNA's) to step into roles of higher responsibility,
 - Practice management
 - Doctors
- **Retail Trade**
 - Sales and customer service
 - Technical and digital support services for business owners
- **Hospitality**
 - Business planning
 - Digital marketing & social media
- **Education & Training**
 - Marketing
 - IT Optimisation
 - Entrepreneur and innovation specialists
 - Early childhood teachers
 - Technology skills
 - Upskilling to higher qualifications
- **Manufacturing**
 - Advanced electronic and computer programming
 - Small machine mechanic

2. Montgomery, S., Tout-Lyon, J., Grace, K., Kew, J., Pell, R., Lord, L., & Gibbs, D. (2017). Skills audit: Current and future skill requirements on the Mid North Coast of NSW. Port Macquarie, NSW: Regional Development Australia. <https://researchoutput.csu.edu.au/en/publications/skills-audit-current-and-future-skill-requirements-on-the-mid-nor>, Department of Education, Regional University Centres Application Form.

Where We Came From

2.3 Contributing Factors

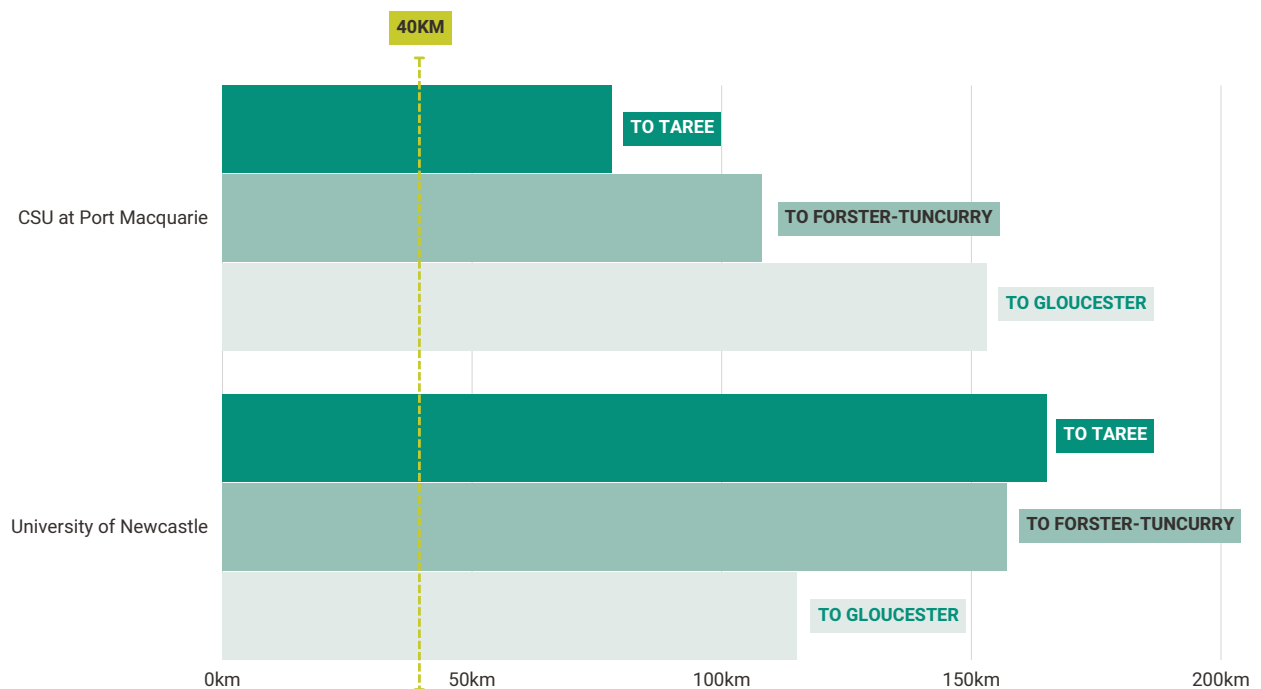
The basis of the trends identified - both in terms of individual participation in University study and the lack of qualified professionals living on the MidCoast long term - fell into three clear categories:

1. Distance

School students who live **more than 40 kilometres** from a university campus are considerably less likely to go to university than school students who live in closer proximity³. In the MidCoast, the closest university campuses are:

- CSU at Port Macquarie, 78 km from Taree, 108 km from Forster-Tuncurry and 153 km from Gloucester
- University of Newcastle, 165 km from Taree, 157 km from Forster and 115 km from Gloucester.

The distance problem is exacerbated by the absence of any viable public transport options.



3. *The Demand Driven University System: A Mixed Report Card*, 2019 Productivity Commission research paper.

Where We Came From

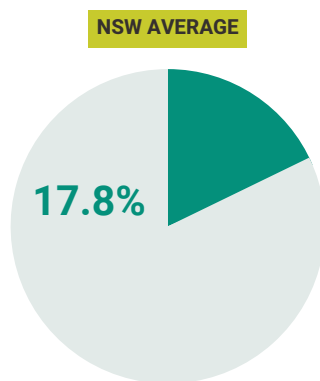
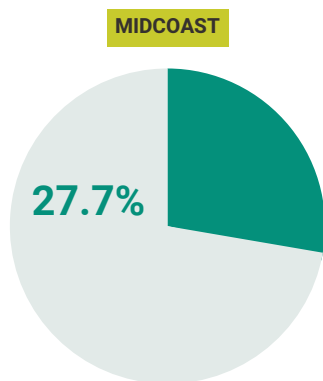
2.3 Contributing Factors

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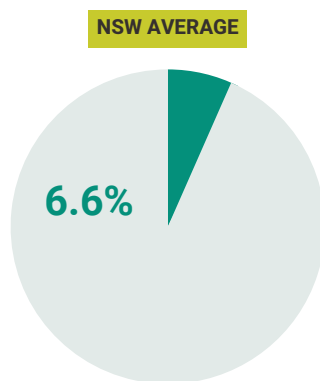
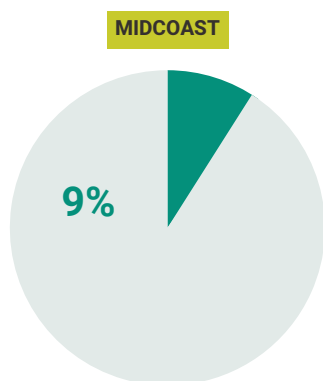
2. Socioeconomic Profile

The demographic profile of the MidCoast is characterised as low socioeconomic, with an index of relative socio disadvantage (SEIFA) in the 889-950 band - the second lowest⁴. At the 2016 Census:

- 27.7% of MidCoast Council households had an income of less than \$650 per week compared to 17.8% across NSW.
- The unemployment rate was at 9% compared to 6.6% across NSW.
- Many school leavers take low value jobs, become unemployed, or leave the area.
- There are also very few apprenticeship opportunities.



Percentage of residents with a household income of less than \$650 per week.



Rate of unemployment.

4. 2016 Census.

Where We Came From

2.3 Contributing Factors

Continued.

2. Affordability

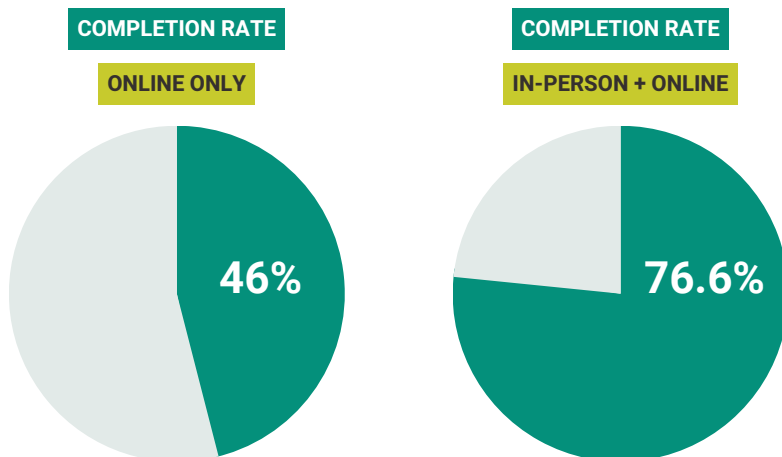
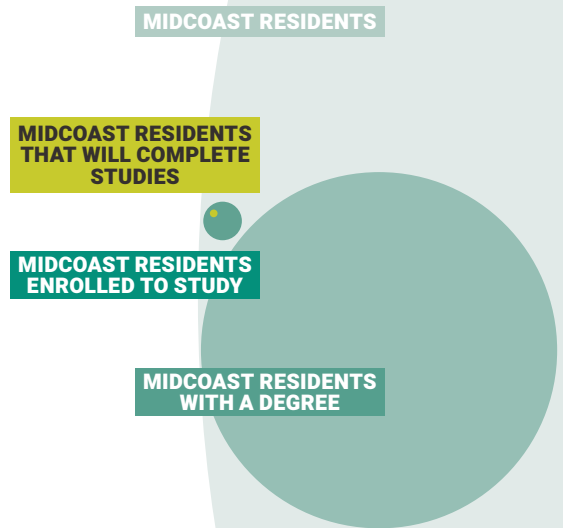
Research has also found that the major barriers to attending a distant university campus include financial cost, and the social cost associated with leaving family and friends to relocate elsewhere.

Letters of support from local school teachers in favour of TUC indicate that some local students, who are capable of attending University, are unable to do so because of a requirement to remain within the MidCoast area to provide financial or emotional support to their families. It is also reported by some members of the Indigenous community in MidCoast that it is unacceptable to leave country.

Concerning Completion Rates for Online Study

Not only is the lack of access a barrier, but completion rates for those who do eventually commence study is also of grave concern.

Of the total students enrolling in university from the Mid Coast, less than 18% are completing their study. Other than relocating away from their homes to study, the only option for Mid Coast residents is an online study mode. However, research indicates that the completion rates for online study only are very low (46%) compared to multi modal delivery (online and face-to-face support) at 76.6% completion.





Where We Came From 2.4 The Application

Taree Universities Campus was born out of a successful application to the 2019 Regional University Centres Program. The program was designed to improve access to tertiary education for regional and remote students.

A Regional University Centre is a facility regional students can use to study tertiary courses locally delivered by distance from any Australian institution providing:

- Infrastructure (including study spaces, computer facilities and high-speed internet access)
- Administrative and academic support and
- Student support services such as pastoral care and study advice.

We were a successful applicant in the second cohort of applicants, at which time there were only 16 organisations like TUC in existence. As of the time of publishing this document, there are now 34 Regional University Centres around Australia.

The Application Process

As part of our application, a steering committee was established, strongly supported by our local Member to Parliament Dr. David Gillespie, who sourced the funding for the working group.

This group in turn nominated our Board of volunteers - a fantastic cooperative of local representatives from business, education and community services with a shared vision for prosperity on the Mid Coast. It was at this point that it was decided Taree Universities Campus would be an independent organisation, of the Country Universities Centre network, to allow us to be highly tailored to the unique needs of the Mid Coast region.

In this instance, we looked to the example of Geraldton Universities Centre, which had been an early pilot of the regional access model and achieved great success in their community.

Taree was proposed as the location for the Campus, with additional nodes in the outer areas of the region to be established over time. Suite 101, Level 1, 1 Pulteney Street, Taree became the exact location given its capacity to cater to many of the needs to follow at the time of the application.

The application itself presented research findings that made a clear case for a University Centre on the Mid Coast (see **2.1 The Needs of Our Residents, 2.2 The Needs of Our Region and 2.3 Contributing Factors**).

It outlined the industries experiencing skills shortages (see **2.2 The Needs of Our Region**) as well as how we intended to meet these needs by collaborating with both University Partners - those with either an established presence in our region or experiences in working with the University Centres model - and enthusiastic members from our local community.



Where We Came From 2.5 Partnerships & Timeline

The process of defining the needs of our region, consulting with our community and successfully securing the grant funding brought to the fore an exciting myriad of partnerships that have allowed us to develop Taree Universities Campus as it stands today.

Our University Partners

We began working with regional university partners which were both geographically close and considered market leaders in mixed mode delivery, to ensure all partners were involved in offering at least one course in mixed mode. The partners were approached to deliver the courses in which they either had proximal resources (such as laboratories and lecturers) or additional programs that would benefit the community (such as the incubation and entrepreneurial programs).

As at the time of publishing this report, we are delighted to enjoy partnerships with the following Australian Universities:

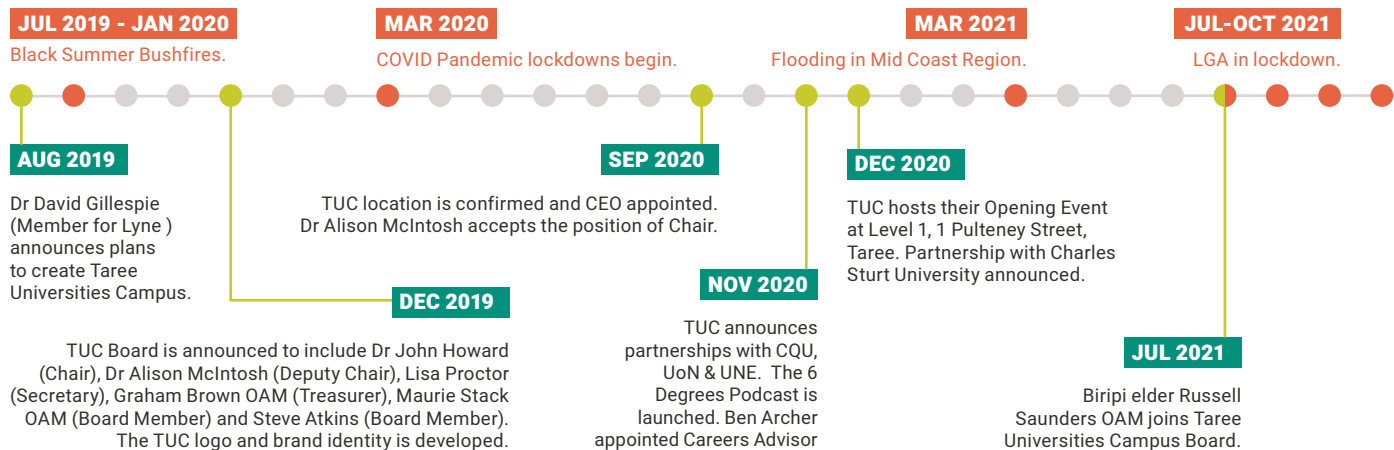
- Central Queensland University
- Charles Sturt University
- University of Newcastle
- University of New England

Community Support

An overwhelming number of letters of support were received from the community partners, as both organisations and individuals offered in-kind services and collaboration.

The following outlines some of the many groups we actively work with today:

- Aboriginal Education Consortium Group (AECG)
- Australian National University as collaborators in our EduVenture project
- Business NSW
- First Steps Count
- Forster-Tuncurry Business Chamber
- Gloucester Business Chamber
- headspace - Consortium partner





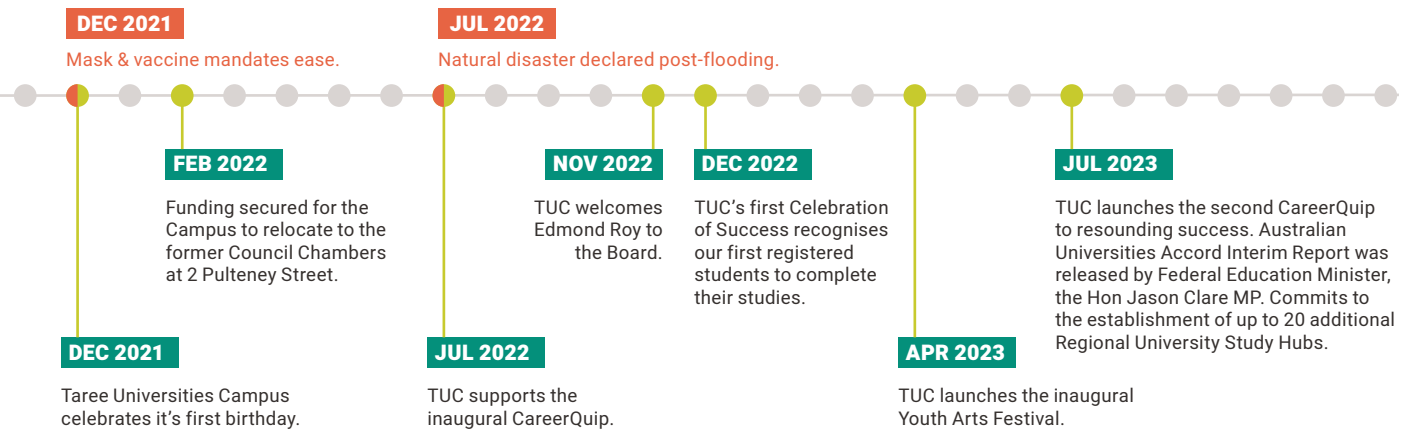
- High schools:
 - Bulahdelah Central School
 - Chatham High School
 - Gloucester High School
 - Great Lakes College Campus
 - Manning Valley Anglican College
 - MidCoast Christian College
 - St Clare’s High School
 - Taree High School
 - Wingham High School
- MidCoast Council
- Office of Regional Youth
- Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast
- Regional Industry Education Program – Training Services NSW
- Saltwater Women’s Group
- TAFE NSW
- Team Taree
- The Lower North Coast Careers Advisor Assoc.
- Homework Hub
- Camden Haven High School (distance education)

Success in the Face of Adversity

It is important to note the catastrophic events - both global and local - the Taree Universities Campus team had to navigate throughout it’s establishment and early phases of growth.

As detailed below, natural disaster plagued the Mid Coast Region in consecutive years before the global COVID pandemic wrought havoc.

It is a testament to the tenacity of the TUC team, its Board and the dedication of the wider community that we enjoy such success despite our early years being marked by so many unavoidable challenges.



Where We Came From 2.6 Our Campus and Our Three-Tiered Approach

Taree Universities Campus is dedicated to supporting Mid Coast residents in their endeavours to go further, close to home. Originally established & located at 1 Pulteney Street in Taree, the Campus has flourished with the support of the local community, businesses, school and partner universities.

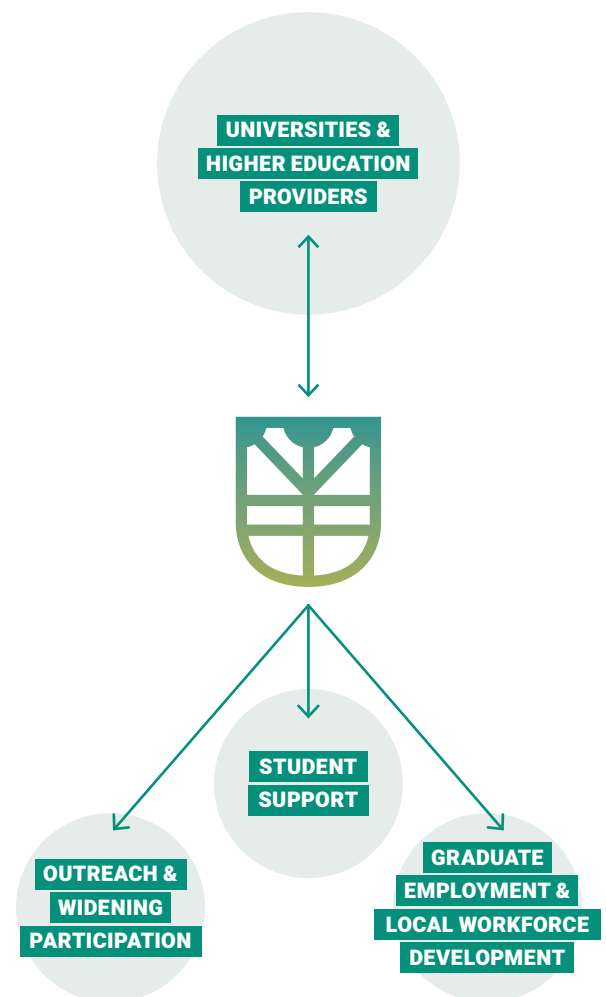
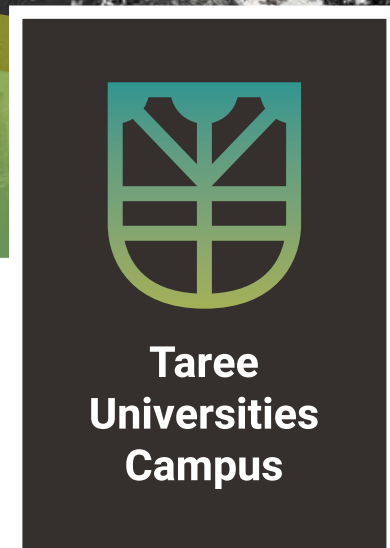
Taree Universities Campus is now a free facility available to those who are a resident of the MidCoast Local Government Area (although we have expanded to cater for temporary access for guests to the region) and are enrolled in a course of tertiary study with an Australian course provider.

We operate on a three-tiered model designed to cover all aspects of the study journey, which also enables us to engage with, and meet the broader needs of the MidCoast Community:

- Outreach and widening participation;
- Student support; and
- Graduate employment and local workforce development.

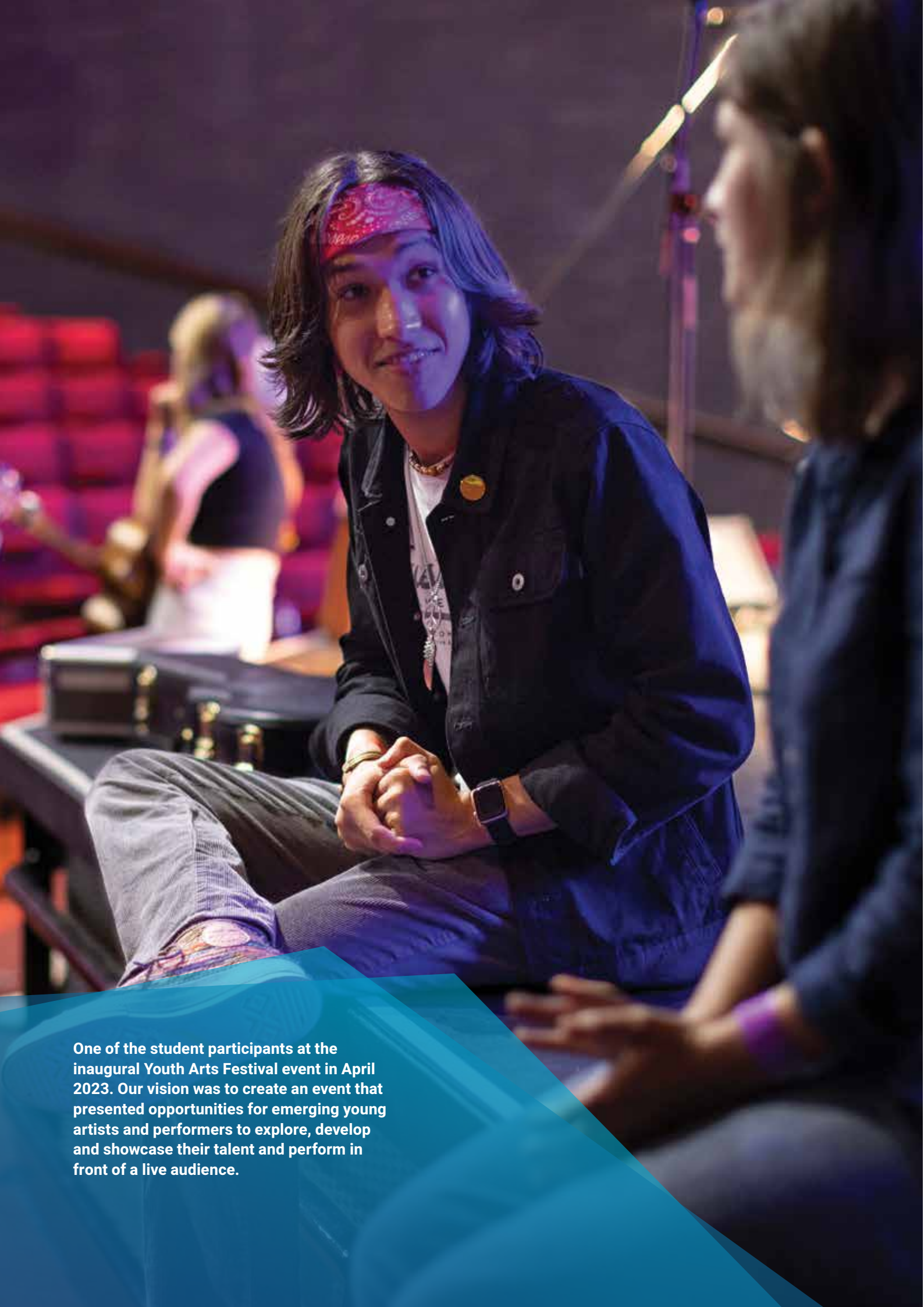
By registering with TUC, students can enjoy a range of support options at our Campus, including:

- Swipe-card access from 5am until Midnight, 7 days per week
- Support staff available from 9am until 5pm, Monday to Friday
- Comfortable and quiet workstations for study
- Breakout spaces for group study
- High speed internet (200Mbps)
- Computers & BYO spaces
- Printing & copying services
- Video conferencing facilities





Our Open Event in December 2020 saw our Campus hosting a number of representatives for our Universities Partners so local students and families could ask questions and learn more about tertiary study opportunities.



One of the student participants at the inaugural Youth Arts Festival event in April 2023. Our vision was to create an event that presented opportunities for emerging young artists and performers to explore, develop and showcase their talent and perform in front of a live audience.



TUC Today

3.1 Understanding TUC Students

Students can be best understood - and subsequently supported - by viewing their education journey from two key perspectives: their individual circumstances and how that impacts their study experience on a holistic level. This means going beyond the undertaking of course material to the broader context of their lives before, during and after study.

We first reflect on the process of the student evolving from the conception of the idea of tertiary study, all the way through to employment in their chosen field.

Whilst no two stories are the same, the most common steps taken by TUC students is as follows:

- Expression of Interest in registering with us, either in a supported or non-supported degree.
- Enrolment in their chosen degree.
- Registration with TUC to use our services and facilities.
- Invitation to engage in TUC events, in-person workshops and other opportunities to compliment their studies.
- Successful completion of studies.
- Engagement with a local employer or other career development opportunities in the MidCoast region.

As outlined in the previous section, we are dedicated to supporting students holistically across their education journey.

This means creating the space for curiosity and the decision-making stages, providing support throughout the undertaking of the study itself before opening up conversations and connections for the practical application of newly developed skills in our local economy.

CONFIDENCE AND CAPACITY

We recognise that preceding the decision to study is the self belief that successful graduation is possible.

What we're doing: EduVenture, Youth Arts Festival, Know & Grow Sessions

EXPLORING OPTIONS

Prospective students often need the opportunity to ask questions about study before submitting an application. They also need to know the practical facilities will be in place for study to be achievable.

What we're doing: On site campus staff to tour the facility and ask questions, CareerQuip, Open Day events.

UNDERTAKING STUDY

Students often require assistance with access to technology, as well as comfortable & quiet study spaces for successful completion to be viable. They may also need placement support and exam spaces. Financial barriers are also common.

What we're doing: Swipe-card access to the Campus from 5am-Midnight 7 days per week, connection with Campus Volunteers who provide guidance with specific degrees, providing exposure to scholarships.

EMPLOYMENT

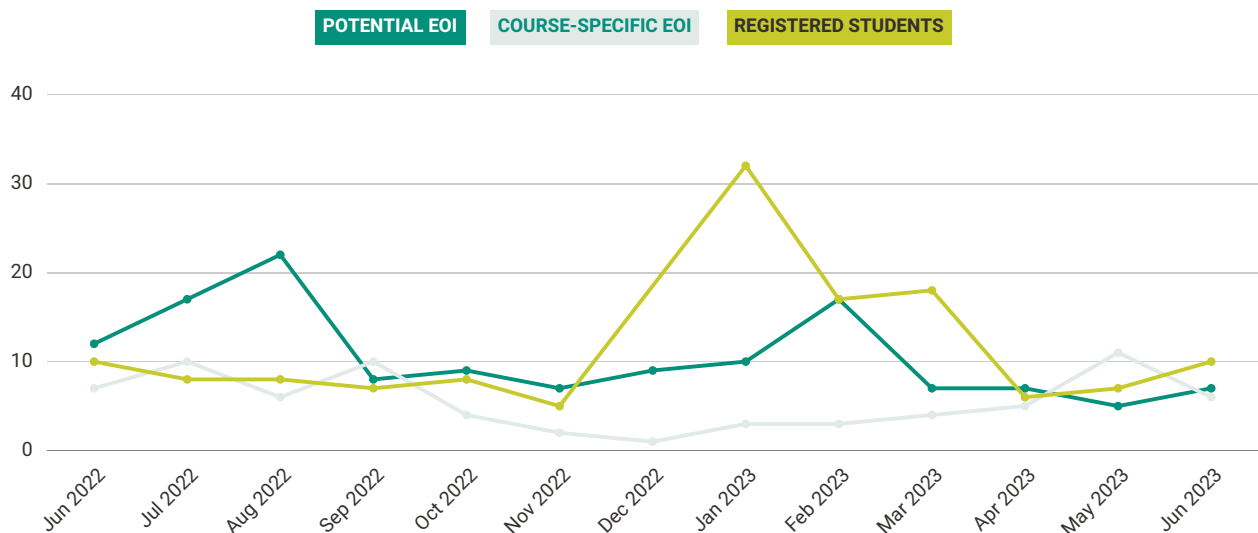
Being unable to envision a practical career and foreseeing viable employment options can be a common deterrent from study. A student pursuing their passion may also be forced to implement those skills outside of our region.

What we're doing: engaging a Careers Advisor for advice at every stage, offering cadetships through our Earn & Learn program, advertising local jobs & opportunities to students on our website and in the Campus.

3.2 Potential Students

Taree Universities Campus serves students from diverse backgrounds and circumstances. Their challenges and needs are equally unique. Our Campus team tracks and measures a number of metrics regularly to maintain a clear picture of the MidCoast residents we serve, which enables us to continually be responsive to both obstacles and opportunities.

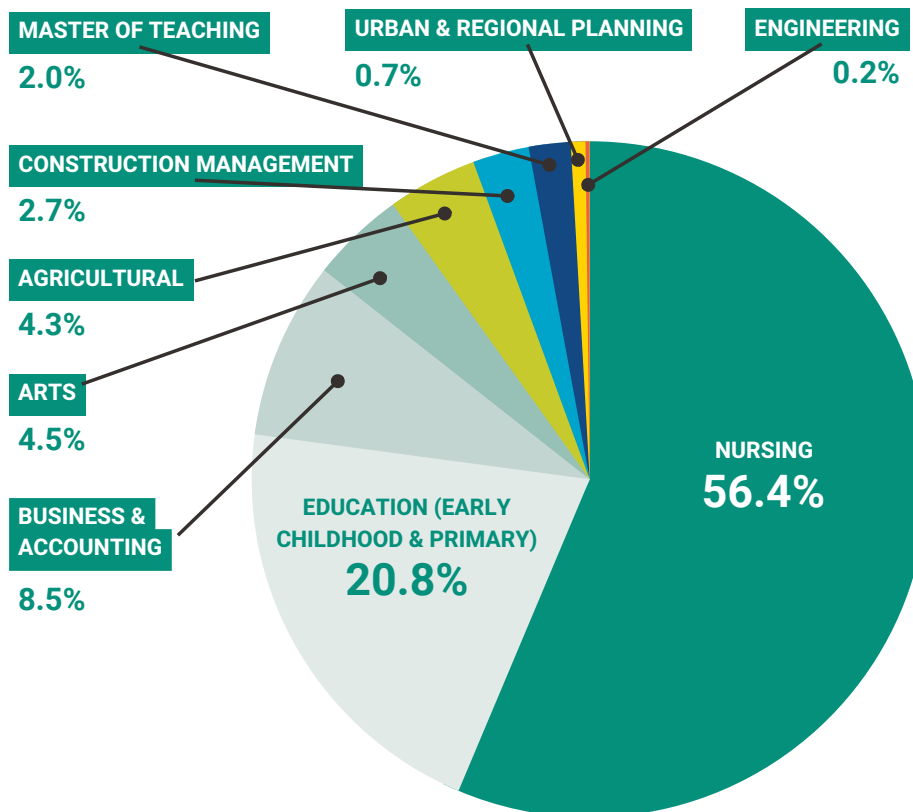
Enquiries vs Registrations Over 12 Month Period:



- **Potential EOI:** Enquiries we receive through our General Expression of Interest form on our website. We see this as someone who is in the early stages of their tertiary study journey and are still making enquiries to determine viability.
- **Course-Specific EOI:** An enquiry we have received specifically regarding a supported course on our website. We see these people as being closer to committing to study in a degree in an identified area of need or personal interest.
- **Registrations:** Students who are committed to tertiary study. They may be waiting for offers from Universities or may already be undertaking study and have registered with our Campus.

There are many factors that may mean people will not progress from initial enquiry to university enrolment - change of mind, a change in personal circumstances, opting for TAFE instead, etc. Whilst we cannot directly compare enquiries to registrations as an absolute metric of our success, it is our goal that the disparity between these two continues to reduce over time.

Expressions of Interest in Supported Courses⁵:



Monitoring the enquiries regarding our Supported Courses allows us to gauge the interest from the community in the courses that specifically relate to the identified areas of need (see **2.2 The Needs of Our Region**).

It's important to note that, at this early stage of enquiry, the depth of data we can request to analyse is limited. This is based on the user experience of a website as a typical first point of contact; it is unlikely that someone who is not yet close to committing to study will be willing to offer a high level of personal details on their personal circumstances.

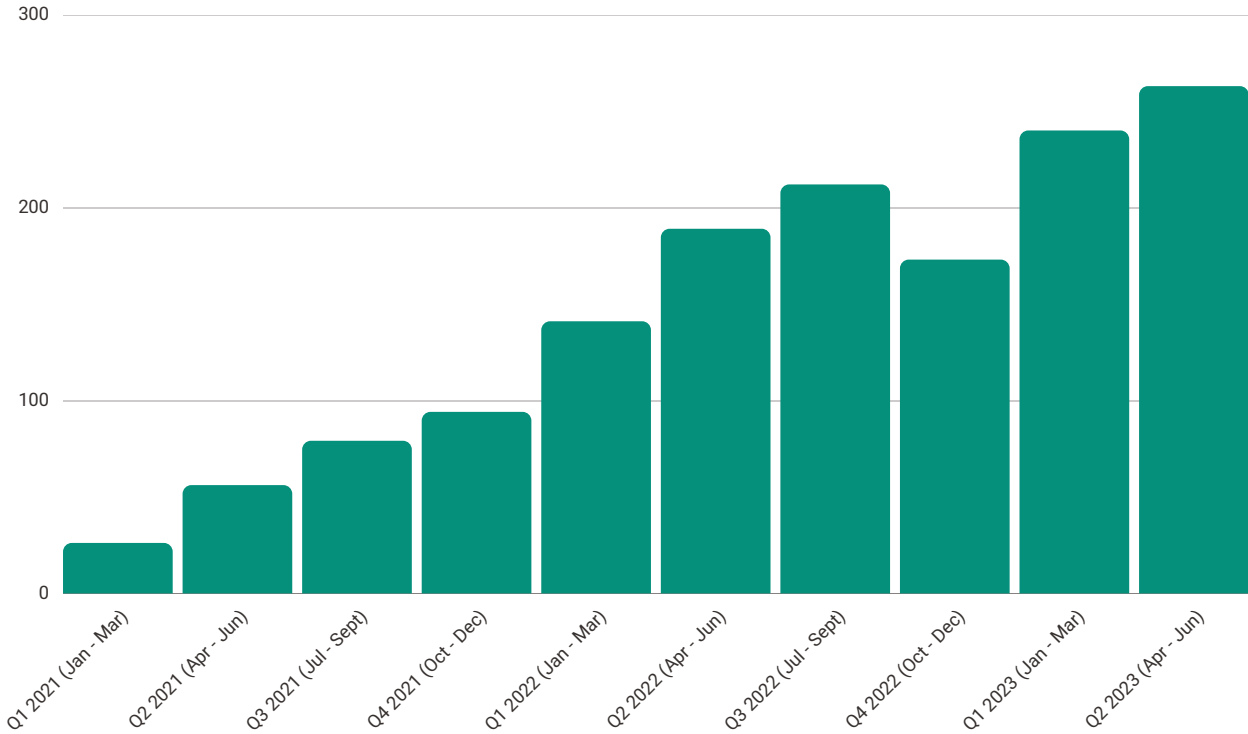
When we develop initiatives to encourage the undertaking of university study, our strategies are based on a combination of the community-level needs we are dedicated to fulfilling, these entry-level statistics regarding subject areas of interest, and the greater depth of detail we can glean from successfully registered students on the following pages.

5. Based on aggregate Potential Expressions of Interest received as at 01 July 2023.

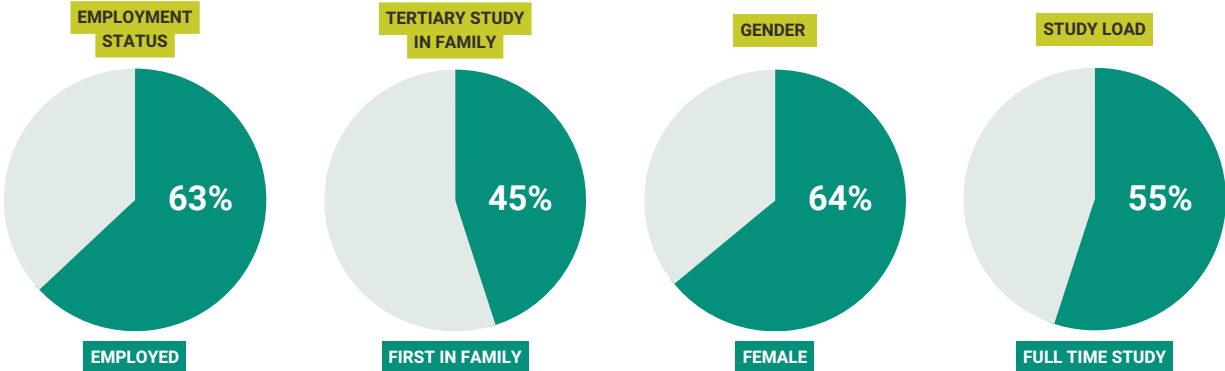
TUC Today

3.3 Registered Students

New Registrations on a Quarterly Basis:

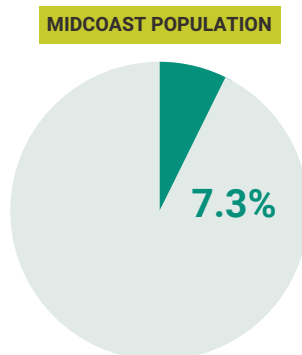
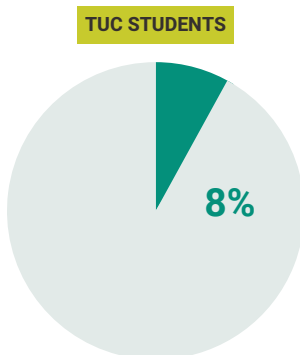
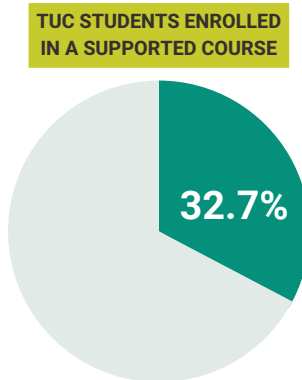
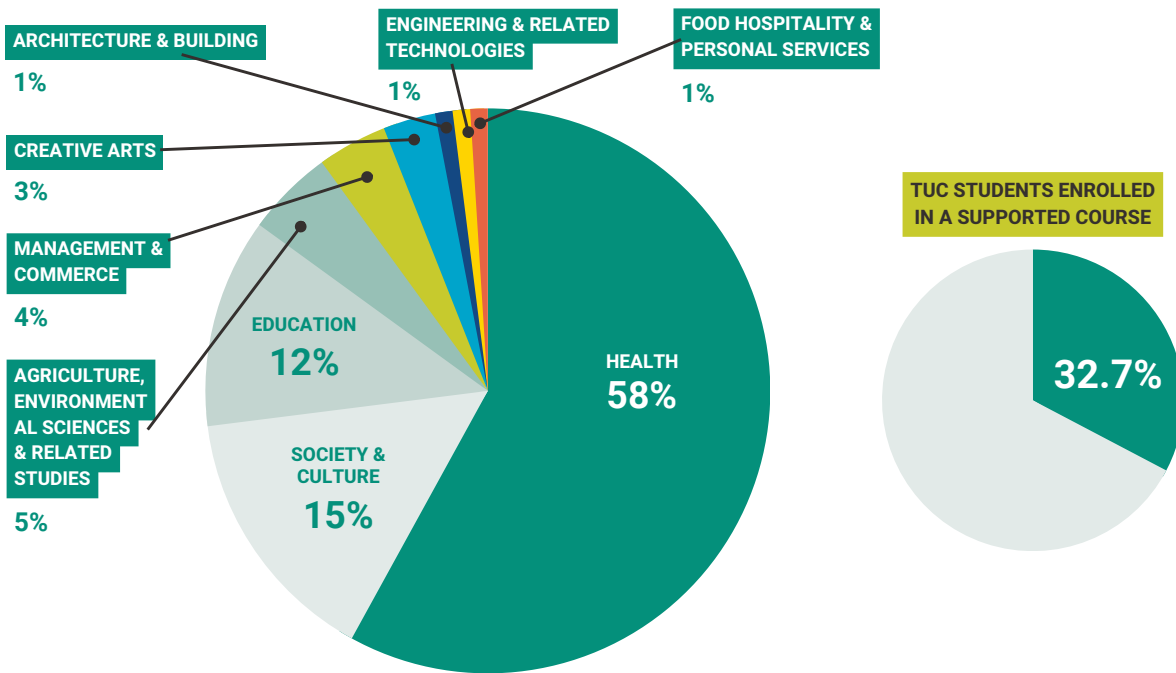


Registered Student Demographic Data⁶:



6. TUC internal reporting data as at 01 July 2023.

Broad areas of study being undertaken by registered students:



ATSI Identifying registered students⁶ compared to the MidCoast LGA⁷ as a whole.

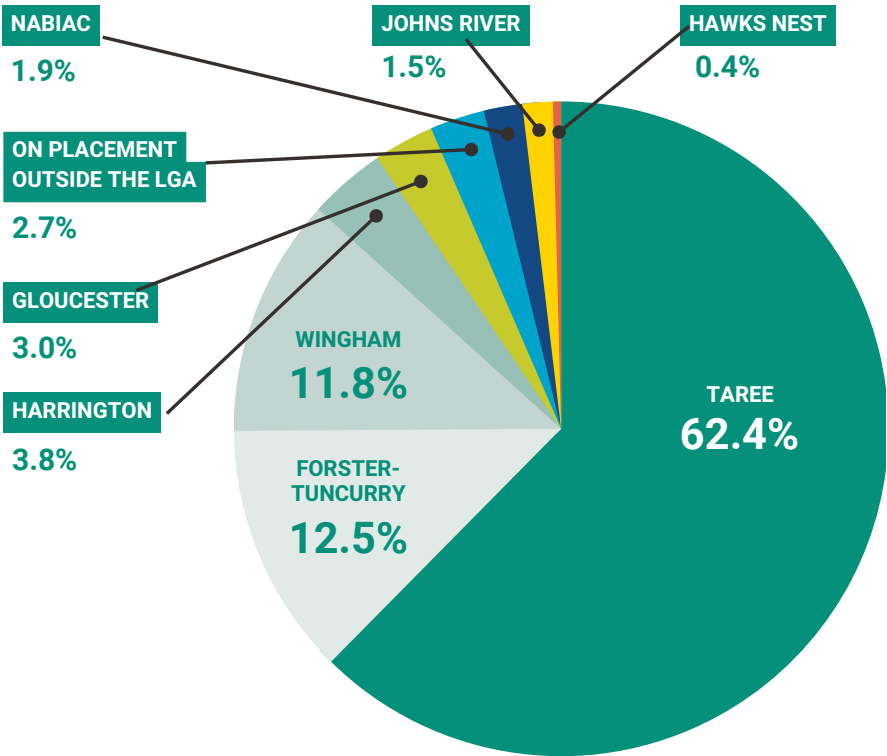
7. 2021 Census Data.

TUC Today

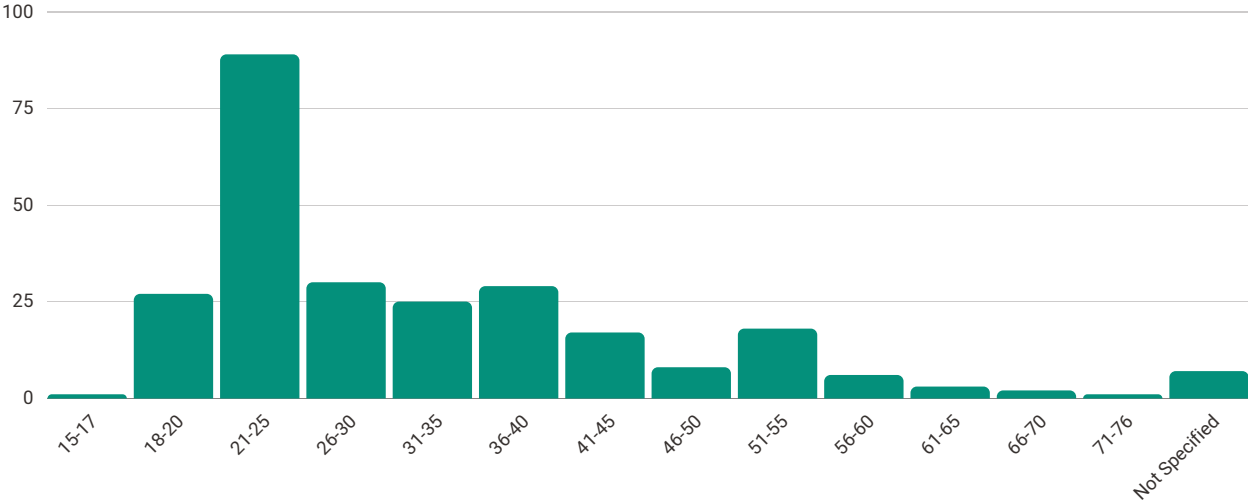
3.3 Registered Students

Continued.

Students by location:



Students by age:



TUC TODAY
3.3 REGISTERED STUDENTS



TUC Today

3.4 TUC Students' Universities

As we are a facility available to all MidCoast residents enrolled in tertiary study, we support students enrolled in any supported degree with institutions beyond those we have partnerships with.

This can present opportunities for new partnerships with other education providers with degrees beyond the scope of what we currently support. It also allows us to stay mindful of which students in our region are actually studying, and subsequently where we can provide additional assistance if necessary.

Below are the institutions with whom students are registered, as well as the number of students, as at 01 July 2023 (by number of students supported):

- PARTNER** Charles Sturt University (102)
- PARTNER** University of New England (59)
- PARTNER** University of Newcastle (35)
 - TAFE (12)
- PARTNER** Central Queensland University (9)
 - Southern Cross University (6)
 - Western Sydney University (5)
 - Charles Darwin University (4)
 - Southern Cross University (4)
 - Deakin University (2)
 - Griffith University (2)
 - University of Tasmania (2)
 - Australasian College of Environmental & Nutritional Medicine (1)
 - Australian College of Nursing (1)
 - Aust.Inst. Professional Counsellors (1)
 - Aust. Academy of Garden Design (1)
- Camden Haven Community College (1)
- College of Adult Learning (1)
- Federation University (1)
- Flinders University (1)
- High School Distance Education (1)
- Karben Training Solutions (1)
- Macquarie University (1)
- Online Open Colleges (1)
- Queensland University of Technology (1)
- Swinburne University (1)
- The College of Law (1)
- Torrens University (1)
- Torrens (Billy Blue) (1)
- University of Melbourne (1)
- University of Southern Queensland (1)
- University of Wollongong (1)

University Partners Central Queensland University



Supported Degrees with CQU being studied by registered students:

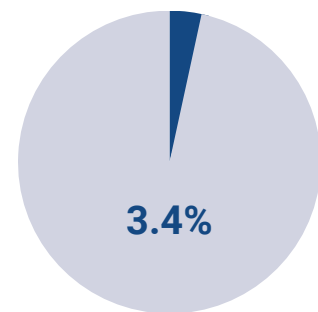
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
- Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)
- Bachelor of Education (Primary)
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary)
- Bachelor of Accounting
- Bachelor of Business

Non-Supported areas of study with CQU being studied by registered students:

- Medical Science
- Nursing

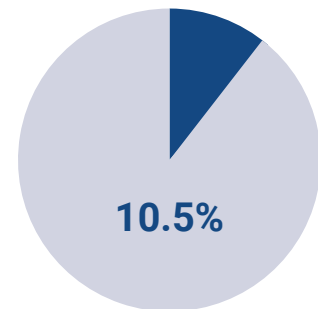
TOTAL TUC STUDENTS STUDYING

WITH CQU



TUC STUDENTS STUDYING A SUPPORTED DEGREE

WITH CQU



FROM ALL STUDYING A SUPPORTED DEGREE

“The existence of TUC was a significant factor in my decision to undertake my current studies. The experience with TUC and its support has been excellent and has added to a sense of belonging to my enrolled tertiary provider. I have seriously considered leaving the degree, yet TUC has offered support throughout.

Bachelor of Education (Primary) Student

Central Queensland University

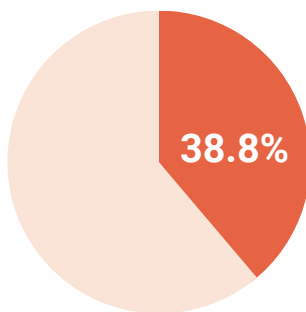


Charles Sturt
University

University Partners Charles Sturt University

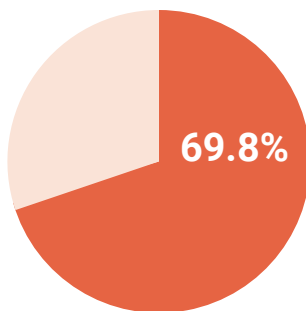
TOTAL TUC STUDENTS
STUDYING

WITH CSU



TUC STUDENTS STUDYING
A SUPPORTED DEGREE

WITH CSU



FROM ALL STUDYING A
SUPPORTED DEGREE

Supported Degrees with CSU being studied by registered students:

- Bachelor of Nursing

Non-Supported areas of study with CSU being studied by registered students:

- Education
- Social Work
- Psychology
- Human Services
- Occupational Therapy



My Mum was a nurse and as a child I visited her at work. By nature I tended towards a caring role. In 2021 I commenced a Bachelor of Nursing with CSU, at the same time as TUC was starting up. The idea of receiving local support was great. And being local, receiving local support and benefiting from local placements has allowed me to concentrate much more on my studies.

There were significant costs savings but also it enabled me to develop local professional relationships and insight into the local opportunities that would meet my interests.

Bachelor of Nursing Student

Charles Sturt University



University Partners University of Newcastle

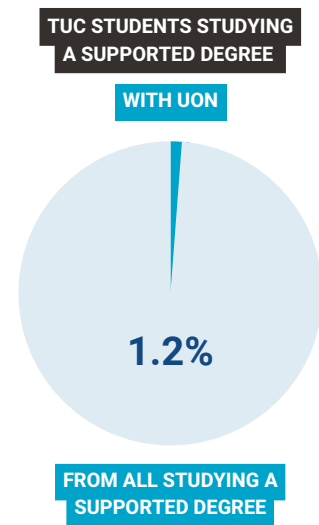
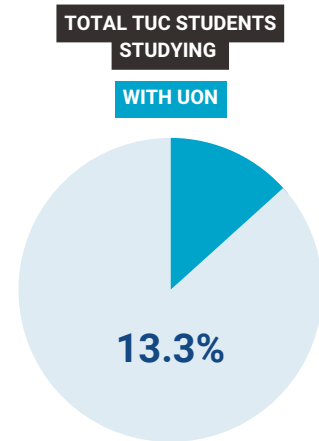


Supported Degrees with UON being studied by registered students:

- Bachelor of Construction Management (Building) (Hons)

Non-Supported areas of study with UON being studied by registered students:

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- PhD
- Medicine



It wasn't until becoming a new Mum that I started to realise nursing would be a good profession. Commencing studies in 2019 for the Bachelor of Nursing with The University of Newcastle, my confidence grew and by the second term was achieving credits and distinctions.

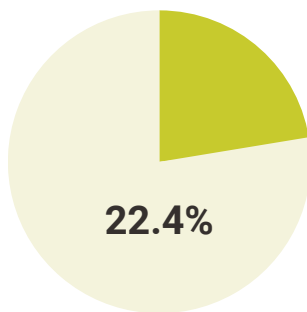
Completing the last clinical placement in late 2022, I am now a Registered Nurse and interested in undertaking a further diploma to specialise in specific applied therapy fields relevant to my work.

Bachelor of Nursing Student

University of Newcastle

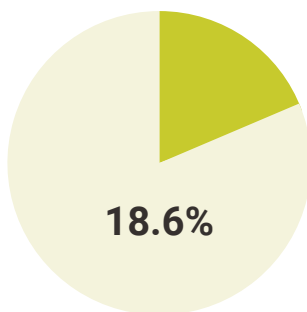
**TOTAL TUC STUDENTS
STUDYING**

WITH UNE



**TUC STUDENTS STUDYING
A SUPPORTED DEGREE**

WITH UNE



**FROM ALL STUDYING A
SUPPORTED DEGREE**

Supported Degrees with UNE being studied by registered students:

- Undergraduate Degrees in Education & Training
- Bachelor of Environmental Science
- Master of Teaching (Primary)
- Master of Teaching (Secondary)
- Master of Urban and Regional Planning
- Master of Science in Agriculture
- Master of Rural Science
- Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business
- Bachelor of Sustainability
- Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning
- Bachelor of Agricultural & Resource Economics
- Bachelor of Agriculture
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Rural Science
- Bachelor of Agribusiness

Non-Supported areas of study with UNE being studied by registered students:

- Nursing
- Medicine

I am completing a Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business degree at UNE and the support from TUC has helped me to balance study and work commitments. I enjoy working in the area I am study at the same time, and have followed my passion. I am so passionate about the industry and encourage other high school students to strive for the things they believe in and to follow their interests and passions.

Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business Student

University of New England

Looking Ahead

4.1 Casting the Vision Further

Taree Universities Campus has gone from strength to strength. Our independent model within the Regional University Centres Program Framework has allowed us to break ground with innovative ways to support and engage our community.

Our efforts moving forward align with the pillars outlined in **2.6 Our Campus and Our Three-Tiered Approach**:

OUTREACH AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION

- Moving the Campus to 2 Pulteney Street, Taree will enable us to expand upon our TUC Learning Community Project (TLC Project) to include the development of a physical community learning space and event space for public use.
- Greater engagement with our First Nations communities by offering accredited training in local Biripi & Worimi language and cultural training through our University Partners
- Creating a dedicated Elders Room.
- Implementation of our Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Our annual events calendar continues to grow upon the success of our Youth Arts Festival, CareerQuip partnerships, Celebrations of Success and workshops.
- Building aspiration and developing confidence in high school students and their future through projects like EduVenture.

STUDENT SUPPORT

- We have achieved enormous success in our number of registered students studying

Nursing, an area of great need not just on the MidCoast but in many parts of rural and regional Australia. We hope to achieve similar success in the areas of Education with many of the same strategies, including study support, student mentoring and local placement opportunities.

- We will be setting up 'nodes' of the Campus in the areas of Gloucester and Forster-Tuncurry, addressing the issue of physical distance as a deterrent to study.
- Seek feedback and ensure support provided aligns with student needs.
- Reflecting on our Expressions of Interest as a pathway to more University Partnerships.
- Contributing insights to the Universities Accord as to how we can all continue to improve the student experience, helping more talented individuals go further, close to home.

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT AND LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Continuing to develop our strong partnerships with local businesses and industry bodies to facilitate more scholarships, placements and employment opportunities like Earn and Learn.
- Following up on the MidCoast AH202⁸ project to continue to attract, recruit and retain allied health professionals.

8. AH202 is a community-driven organisation dedicated to securing 20 new health professionals in 20 years, at at 2022. They support our current resident allied health practitioners whilst also looking to grow the cohort in our region by focusing on making the MidCoast as a center for excellence for the training, recruitment and retention of allied health professionals.



CareerQuip 2023 was a fantastic opportunity for local high school students to get some hands on experience and in-person advice from university providers, local training organisations, armed forces personnel and employers in our region.



Taree Universities Campus

Taree Universities Campus
is proudly supported by
the Australian Government
through the Regional
University Centres Program,
now referred to as the
Regional University Study
Hubs Program.



**From July 2023 RUCs are
now identified as Regional
University Study Hubs.*