

O-WEEK...The Uni Hub's Port Pirie campus held its orientation week for its new students last week. About 10 new students spent time at the campus, learning about how Uni Hub Spencer Gulf would be helping them during their tertiary education journey. Pictured was Bachelor of Nursing student Isabella Jones Frkic, left, with campus coordinator Kim Gregory during one of the orientation sessions.



Survey to shape Port Augusta's Uni Hub

An overwhelming 69 per cent of students who took part in a recent Uni Hub Spencer Gulf school survey for the Port Augusta region said they would consider staying their home town to study at a tertiary level.

The survey was one of two conducted by Uni Hub Spencer Gulf to help guide course offerings for the Port Augusta campus next year.

A total of 190 responses were received from school students in the region, while another 97 were received from industry representatives.

"We are extremely grateful for the schools, students and industry who took the time to give us their opinions and provide us with valuable data to help us plan for Port Augusta next year," Director Moira Coffey said.

Ms Coffey said the major reasons that students said they would study locally instead of relocating was affordability and being able to live at home with their families, staying close to friends, keeping their part time jobs and playing sport.

Meanwhile local industry indicated that their companies currently had 214 vacancies (in Port Augusta and other regions) while predictions of future vacancies for the next five to 10 years in

these regions exceeded 500 jobs.

The biggest vacancies were in heavy industry, construction and engineering, health, education and employment services.

"The major trends that were communicated both through the survey results and anecdotally was there were

"We are extremely grateful for the schools, students and industry who took the time to give us their opinions and provide us with valuable data..."

issues around sourcing and retaining people in a range of positions including doctors and allied health professionals, specialist educators, executive or managerial level positions, counsellors, registered and/or certified aged care workers, engineers, qualified financial professionals, IT technicians and qualified horticulturalists," she said.

"Many conversations that took place around industry education levels and difficult to fill positions related to bachelor level qualifications and highlighted deficits in being able to staff the local professional workforce and then retain people in these roles.

"The community also told us they wanted professional development opportunities in leadership, project managements, business administration, counselling, work health safety, finance management, grant application writing, aged care, digital skills and social media."

Ms Coffey said a range of courses have been recommended as a result of the school and industry survey. These courses include social work, mental health, disability, nursing, allied health, education, engineering, business, finance, project management and agriculture.

"We are now calling on expressions of interest from the community via the Uni Hub Spencer Gulf website, so we know what the demands are and we can start working with our university partners to develop course offerings," Ms Coffey said.

To put in your expression of interest, visit <https://unihubsg.org/wantstudy/>