



LAUNCH...Pictured at the Port Augusta launch of Uni Hub Spencer Gulf were, from left, DECD Education Director, Port Augusta and Fair North Region, Robin Harkin, Member for Stuart and Minister for Energy and Mining, Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Spencer Gulf Uni Hub board chair Jen Cleary, Port Augusta mayor, Brett Benbow, Uni Hub student engagement officer Lexie Morris, Federal Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey and Director of Catholic Education, Nichii Mardon. PHOTO: Peter Taylor Photos.

Large crowd supports Port Augusta launch

The need to provide local people with access to supported tertiary education and produce skilled people for local industry were the key messages at Uni Hub Spencer Gulf's Port Augusta launch last month.

A large crowd representing industry, schools, government, key stakeholders and community members attended the launch, which was held at the Central Oval Community Sporting Hub.

The event was an opportunity for locals to speak to Uni Hub, university and TAFE SA representatives about the facility and the steps and options that were on offer.

The Hub will officially open in February next year in a co-location on the TAFE SA campus.

Courses available include Masters of Education, Bachelor of Education (early childhood, primary and secondary), Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Psychological Science - as well as others that are currently out for tender.

Federal Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey MP said there was a need to upskill people in the region to fill professional vacancies.

"There has been growth in the number of people in regional areas with tertiary education, but those levels are not growing as fast as those in the city," he said.

Mr Ramsey said there Uni Hub Spencer Gulf offered people

opportunities to study locally and could 'change the lay of the land' in relation to the number of regional people with a tertiary education.

"I thank those people who have had the vision from the start. Now we have started on the path - we need to make it work. I will be working with you to make sure we have success," he said.

Port Augusta City Council mayor Brett Benbow said the Uni Hub was ideal for people of all ages - from school leavers through to parents with children, eliminating the need to move away from Port Augusta and keeping skilled people in the region.

"We need skills, we need trained people, we need qualified people," he said.

"It (Uni Hub) helps not only the young, but the old and the middle aged. A lot of people think uni and think youth - I think uni and think all ages.

"It is a fantastic story. Port Augusta council thoroughly supports this program."

Member for Stuart and Minister for Energy and Mining, Dan van Holst Pellekaan said people should not need to leave home to access a good education.

Large crowd at Hub launch

From page 1

He said that it was important for people in the Spencer Gulf to have access to university in the region, if it was the pathway they wanted to follow.

"I am 100 per cent confident that if people could do university here at home the drop out rate would reduce significantly," he said.

Uni Hub Spencer Gulf board chair Jen Cleary reflected on the industries that were growing in the region, particularly in Port Augusta.

"That means jobs – jobs for our community. Many of those jobs are professional jobs," she said.

"Sometimes we have to bring those people in, because in our regional, rural and remote communities the level of degree qualified people is very much lower than what it is in metro areas. A big part of that is because of the lack of access (to university).

"Uni Hub is where we can provide 'distance with assistance'. If you study alone it can be awfully isolating. If you can have peer support, tutoring support, mentors – if you can do that all that in your own community, surrounded by your own family, there is much greater opportunity for you to complete your studies. The retention rate is above 80 per cent when you have distance education with assistance.

"What Uni Hub does is provide that local assistance and support to enable people to study locally while they are getting world class degrees, offered by world class universities.

"Our industries will get the local skills we need to grow our workforce, to grow our region and to grow our thriving communities."



ABOVE...Pictured at the Port Augusta launch of Uni Hub Spencer Gulf were left, Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group executive officer Anita Crisp and Flinders University Director of Student Recruitment, Peter Torjul.

BOTTOM RIGHT...Regional Development Australia Far North representatives Melita Miller, Bronwyn Fuller, Paula Osborn and Greg Williams attended the Port Augusta launch.

To see all the photos from the launch, check out our Facebook page. PHOTOS: Peter Taylor Photos.



SPEAKERS...Danielle Brown, left, provided the Acknowledgement of Country at the Port Augusta Spencer Gulf Uni Hub launch. She was pictured with launch MC, Chad McKnight. PHOTO: Peter Taylor Photos.



HUB...Attending the launch of Port Augusta's Uni Hub Spencer Gulf were, from left, Uni Hub communications officer Renae Murdoch with Port Augusta Uni Hub students, Debbie Warren and Wendy Gibbs. PHOTO: Peter Taylor Photos.

