**VIDEO transcript: Vice Chancellor heads to Bendigo Campus 9/3/12**

Narrator:

La Trobe University’s new Vice Chancellor, Professor John Dewar, has flagged more regional students and courses as one of his major objectives. Professor Dewar made the comments in Bendigo during the first of a series of tours of the university’s regional campuses. Professor Dewar spent several days meeting with staff, students and members of the community to discuss the strategic direction of the university.

*John Dewar:*

*Part of the strategic conversations I want to be having with the university in the next few months is what areas should we identify as sort of iconic areas of the university where we really nail our colours to the mast and say if you come here you will be working with the best teachers, the best researchers, doing the best work in those areas that is being done in Australia and in some cases the world. Bendigo has a big part to play in that, as do the other regional campuses.*

Narrator:

It is hoped that these discussions will help guide course development and delivery in the context of rising student demand in regional areas.

*John Dewar:*

*La Trobe is the biggest provider of higher education in regional Victoria. There is no other university that enrols more regional students than we do. Even Universities that are headquartered in the regions are smaller than we are in that respect. So Bendigo is the biggest of the regional campuses and its therefore a critical part of our regional engagement in Victoria.*

Narrator:

Currently regional campuses provide 30% of La Trobe University’s student load. The University is planning to expand that load across all five of its campuses. By 2014, five and a half thousand students are slated to be enrolled at Bendigo Campus. Up from five thousand this year.

*John Dewar*

*We will continue the strategy that’s being pursued in the last few years of refreshing La Trobe’s offerings across the board – including those at Bundoora – in ways that are attractive to students and offering them here at Bendigo as well. But at the same time identifying areas where Bendigo can offer a degree that is unique to Bendigo. Dentistry, Pharmacy, Planning would all be examples of that.*

Narrator:

Dentistry, Pharmacy and Planning courses were developed with the needs of regional communities in mind. La Trobe’s regional student catchment areas will continue to provide advice and feedback on new and established courses.

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