Medical School alliance LTU & CSU – video transcript 6/6/13

Narrator:

Charles Sturt University and La Trobe University announced the formation of a new tertiary education alliance in May two-thousand and thirteen. Vice Chancellors, Professor Andrew Vann and Professor John Dewar travelled to the New South Wales and Victorian border, to the twin cities of Albury Wodonga to hold a media conference detailing the partnership.

Professor Andrew Vann:

We share an unshakable belief in the transformative power of education and the roll universities can play in addressing the needs and aspirations of people in rural and regional Australia. We have the privilege of leading two significant contributors to the development of the Murray-Darling region.

Narrator:

The first goal of the new alliance will focus on addressing the rural doctor shortage. Both universities say there is currently an over reliance in regional Australia on overseas doctors to provide medical services. They say this is unsustainable for two reasons. Firstly, it takes those doctors away from helping communities in their own country. Secondly, Canada and the US are proposing to target the group, which will impact on Australia’s ability to recruit overseas trained doctors in the future. Their solution is to create a new type of medical school.

Professor John Dewar:

We will ensure that medical school trains and retains doctors in the Murray-Darling region by using three strategies. The first is that we will recruit from the region and will set ourselves a target that at least 80 per cent of our students are genuinely drawn from regional Australia. Secondly, we will be delivering our degrees solely in the region, students will not have to re-locate to the city to study these degrees. And finally, we’ll have a medical curriculum that focuses on the types and skills of training that those doctors will need to work in rural Australia.

Narrator:

Both universities already provide a range of health studies and have a network of existing campuses across the Murray-Darling Basin. The main teaching would take place at Bendigo, Orange and Wagga Wagga with placements across the region. Existing students say the proposal makes sense.

Samantha Jubb – 3rd year Paramedic and Nursing student:

I would encourage every young person in rural and regional Australia, their mums and dads, to support this initiative.

Narrator:

Currently, almost three quarters of students from both universities come from rural and regional areas. After graduation, more than 80 per cent of students end up working in rural and regional Australia.

Professor Andrew Vann:

I think it’s the strengths that both universities bring to it, we have very shared common interests but we also have complimentary strengths, so I think its great to have the opportunity to work together.

Professor John Dewar:

I don’t think Australian universities work in partnership nearly enough, and I think this is a really good example of how two institutions with a shared mission have identified a similar problem, and we’re working together to solve it. I think it’s a great example of cooperation.

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