

Additional information: Inquiry into Regional Development and Decentralisation

During the Committee Hearing in Wodonga on 12 October, La Trobe University, represented by Ms Guinever Threlkeld took the following question on notice.

1. What consideration is La Trobe giving to a cross border higher education institution and what would its architecture be?

La Trobe is committed to continuously increasing the breadth of study options to its students in the communities which it serves. La Trobe engages in cross-border collaborations on a needs-basis depending on the specific outcome it is trying to achieve.

- La Trobe's flagship proposal for cross-border collaboration is the Murray Darling Medical School (MDMS) to be delivered with Charles Sturt University (CSU). The MDMS would be delivered in different regional sites across rural Victoria and New South Wales. It would improve health outcomes for regional and rural Australians and is estimated to be three to five times more efficient than metropolitan universities in training doctors who will work in regional or rural Australia. La Trobe can provide further information and support to the Regional Committee on Development and Decentralisation on the potential of the MDMS to drive economic growth (around \$2 billion) in regional Australia.
- In addition to the MDMS proposal, La Trobe has a number of cross-border collaborations that are already in place namely:
 - A partnership with Navitas, which manages La Trobe's Sydney CBD campus.
 - An articulation agreement with TAFE NSW Riverina; this builds on La Trobe's track record of TAFE partnerships and enables TAFE business diploma and advanced diploma graduates to receive advanced standing in La Trobe's business and accounting degrees.
- Through its membership of the Innovative Research Universities (IRU), La Trobe University participates in projects with six other universities across Australia. One such example is the Academic Calibration Project (ACP), an external peer review process that runs across several IRU members. The ACP is an inter-institutional quality process that aims to provide comparable review and constructive feedback on selected higher education units.

La Trobe will continue considering cross border cooperation as new opportunities arise and where it makes sense to do so.