

MEDIA RELEASE –17 November2016

Tec-NQ another successful regional project

The Tec-NQ accommodation facility has more than doubled its student intake since it opened one year ago, which shows how successful local projects can be with the support of regional funding.

Regional Development Australia Chief Executive Glenys Schuntner said the college received \$2 million in funding towards building Tec-NQ House in Townsville, under the Federal Government's Regional Development Australia Fund.

"The facility started with 11 students in boarding and now has 21 students from across North Queensland studying a wide range of trades," Ms Schuntner said.

"RDA recognised the value of this project because it allows regional students from our area, such as Ingham, Richmond and Normanton, to access trades training at Tec-NQ and then return back to work in their communities."

Tec-NQ Projects Co-ordinator Jennifer Trybula said eight of the boarding students have gained employment, six in their regional communities and two in Townsville.

"We also have our first three boarders completing Year 12 with a trade certificate returning to their regional communities of Cloncurry, Rockhampton and Thursday Island," Ms Trybula said.

"Communities are so grateful that Tec-NQ can provide opportunities for their students who want a trade and to finish school."

Tec-NQ was formally accredited as a boarding school in July 2016, which allows eligible students to access state and federal funding programs to support their board and tuition costs.

RDA CEO Glenys Schuntner said RDA had worked with councils and not-for-profits to help secure \$30.5 million through the RDA Fund and National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF), to contribute to local projects worth \$73.5 million.

"The NSRF program will be replaced with the new Building Better Regions Fund," Ms Schuntner said.

"The new fund will assess projects in three categories depending on their size, which will mean applications for smaller grants will not be competing with large projects.

"As the details of this new fund will be announced shortly, I encourage councils and not-for-profits to identify projects they believe would benefit their communities."

Further information is available at www.infrastructure.gov.au

