

2020 NCSEHE EQUITY FELLOW

National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education



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PROJECT INFORMATION

Supporting people with disability from regional, rural and remote Australia, to succeed in higher education

“This Equity Fellowship will focus on how universities can best support people with disability, who come from regional, rural and remote Australia, in their higher education studies. These students not only study in regional universities, they also relocate to cities, or study online. Currently, there are anywhere between 8,000–10,000 people from regional Australia, who identify as having disability, undertaking higher education studies. In this project, I am excited to be working with students with disability, and the higher education staff who support them, to deepen our knowledge and understanding about what works, and what doesn’t.

The Fellowship has two primary aims:

1. To engage with people with disability in and from regional, remote and rural Australia, undertaking higher education studies, to reveal particular barriers they face to succeeding in higher education.
2. To work with higher education institutions to understand what they believe currently represents best practice for supporting people with disability in and from regional, remote and rural areas, the ways in which these students can be actively recruited, and what evidence underpins these beliefs.

By synthesising the findings from these two aims, the Fellowship will help stakeholders to arrive at a better understanding of what higher education institutions are doing right, and what they need to do better, to support people with disability in and from regional, remote and rural Australia.

The study will examine:

- the various modes in which students study
- the built environment of the university
- the technological environment
- the social environment.”

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