

NEWS RELEASE

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Education to be a highlight at Critical Horizons Regional Futures Conference

The future of tertiary education in regional areas such as the South West will be one focus of next week's Critical Horizons Regional Futures Conference.

University of Ballarat Vice Chancellor David Battersby will speak on the topic 'Tertiary education in the regions: Does it make a difference?' at the event at Bunbury's Edith Cowan University.

"The main theme of my presentation will be about the importance of tertiary education to the regions and to regional communities such as the South West," Professor Battersby said.

"The trends indicate that the gap between regional and metropolitan students' access to university is widening, that the under-representation of regional students at university is increasing and the gap between the percentage of Australians living in regional communities and those from the regions attending university is also increasing.

"The presentation will highlight the economic, social and research advantages that tertiary education institutions bring to the regions."

The South West Development Commission-organised conference has been designed to give people an opportunity to examine global trends and the future of the South West region.

Speakers will include former Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett, author and historian Bill Bunbury, and Synergy managing director Jim Mitchell.

For more information about the event or to register visit www.criticalhorizons.com.au

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