

Communique:

Discussion points:

- Regional SETS providers have implemented small business and social enterprise sessions for SETS clients starting their own businesses. These sessions have been delivered in collaboration with dedicated regional business advice organisations.
- Providers discussed high client needs regarding migration and legal advice (such as lodging partner visas and temporary travel to countries of origin). Many clients struggle to access legal advice as they are normally only accessible in major cities, and online sessions prove challenging for many clients with low digital literacy skills. While SETS staff are generally not equipped to provide legal advice, some SETS providers engage trusted and registered migration agents to support clients.
- There has been an increasing number of regional SETS clients experiencing housing precarity and risks of homelessness.
- SETS clients in regional areas seeking to apply for citizenship can find challenges in English language proficiency.

Shared resources:

- Dedicated regional business growth organisations include [Business HQ Bundaberg](#) and [Business HQ Central NSW](#)
- A number of resources are available from the SSI and NSW Settlement Partnership-hosted [Regional Settlement Conference \(April, 2022\)](#). This includes practice papers, panel discussions, and a recording of the conference.

Outcomes:

- The Regional subgroup discussed the specific role of SETS in regional areas and how this might be shared to help build better understandings of settlement in regional areas. Early discussion highlights included: Building a sense of belonging, connecting to other regional service providers, early intervention, assessments and referrals, building community.

Next meeting: The final SETSCoP Regional Subgroup Meeting for 2023 is scheduled for Thursday 19 October.

Attendees (7 SETS staff):

Nick Ross (SETSCoP Secretariat - SPG)

Maria Rosales (SETSCoP Secretariat - SPG)

Luke (Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga NSW)

Daniel (Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga NSW)

Maggie (Bundaberg House QLD)

Linny (Multicultural Australia QLD)

Sofia (SSI NSW)

Elisangela (Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services VIC)

Linda (Goldfields Community Legal Centre WA)