

Country Universities Centre
DEGREES CLOSER

SPRING NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

Manager's Message

Welcome to the latest edition of the CUC Far West newsletter.

As we move through Semester 2, it is wonderful to reflect on another busy and rewarding period for our Centre, our students and our community. While there are still several months to go before the end of the academic year, we have already seen so much to celebrate.

This semester, 132 students are studying through 46 educational institutions, with health continuing to be our largest area of study. Every student brings their own aspirations, challenges and achievements, and we are proud to provide a welcoming and supportive environment to help them succeed. The diversity of courses and study pathways being pursued through CUC Far West highlights the growing opportunities available to regional learners.

Community engagement remains central to everything we do. Earlier this semester, the CUC Far West team had the pleasure of attending the Regional Development Australia Far West Careers Expo. It was fantastic to connect with local students and discuss the many opportunities available through higher education.

Manager's Message

We were also delighted to host our Spring into Study pop-up meet and greet in the Town Square. It was wonderful to meet local residents, future students and community members, and to share information about the support, facilities and opportunities available through CUC Far West. Events like these help demonstrate that higher education is accessible and achievable without leaving our region.

This semester has also seen our team grow, and I am pleased to warmly welcome Krystal and Seth to CUC Far West. We are excited to have them join us and look forward to the knowledge, energy and experience they bring to our Centre. Be sure to read their feature stories in this edition to learn more about their backgrounds and what inspired them to become part of the CUC Far West team.

Another important initiative this semester has been opening our doors to local Year 12 students as they prepare for their HSC examinations. We understand the challenges that come with this important stage of education and are proud to provide a quiet, supportive study environment where students can focus, connect and work towards achieving their goals.

Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate our 2026 graduates at our Alumni Celebration of Graduation in February 2027. This special event is always a highlight of the year and provides an opportunity to recognise the hard work, determination and achievements of our students, graduates and their families.

Thank you for your ongoing support of CUC Far West. Whether you are a student, graduate, supporter, partner or community member, you play an important role in helping us create opportunities and strengthen educational outcomes across the Far West.

We look forward to sharing more student success stories and Centre updates with you in the months ahead.

Elle Pearson
Centre Manager



Welcome Krystal!

CUC Far West is pleased to welcome Krystal Hanley to the team as our Widening Participation and Engagement Officer.

Krystal joins CUC Far West after spending the past five years working in Early Childhood Care and Education.

In her new role, Krystal will work closely with schools, community organisations and local stakeholders to help raise aspirations and create pathways to higher education across the Far West. She is looking forward to meeting community members, supporting students on their education journeys, and becoming a familiar face at the Centre.

Be sure to say hello to Krystal the next time you visit CUC Far West.



Welcome Seth!



CUC Far West is pleased to welcome Seth Maxwell to the team as our Student and Centre Support Officer.

Seth brings a background in operations and management and is currently completing his Bachelor of Education through the University of New England.

As a university student studying remotely himself, Seth understands firsthand the opportunities and challenges of balancing study, work and family life in our Far West community. Alongside his studies, Seth and his wife run a local business, where they share a passion for creating opportunities for young people in Broken Hill.

In his role at CUC Far West, Seth looks forward to supporting students at every stage of their tertiary education, helping them navigate their studies, access support and make the most of their learning experience.

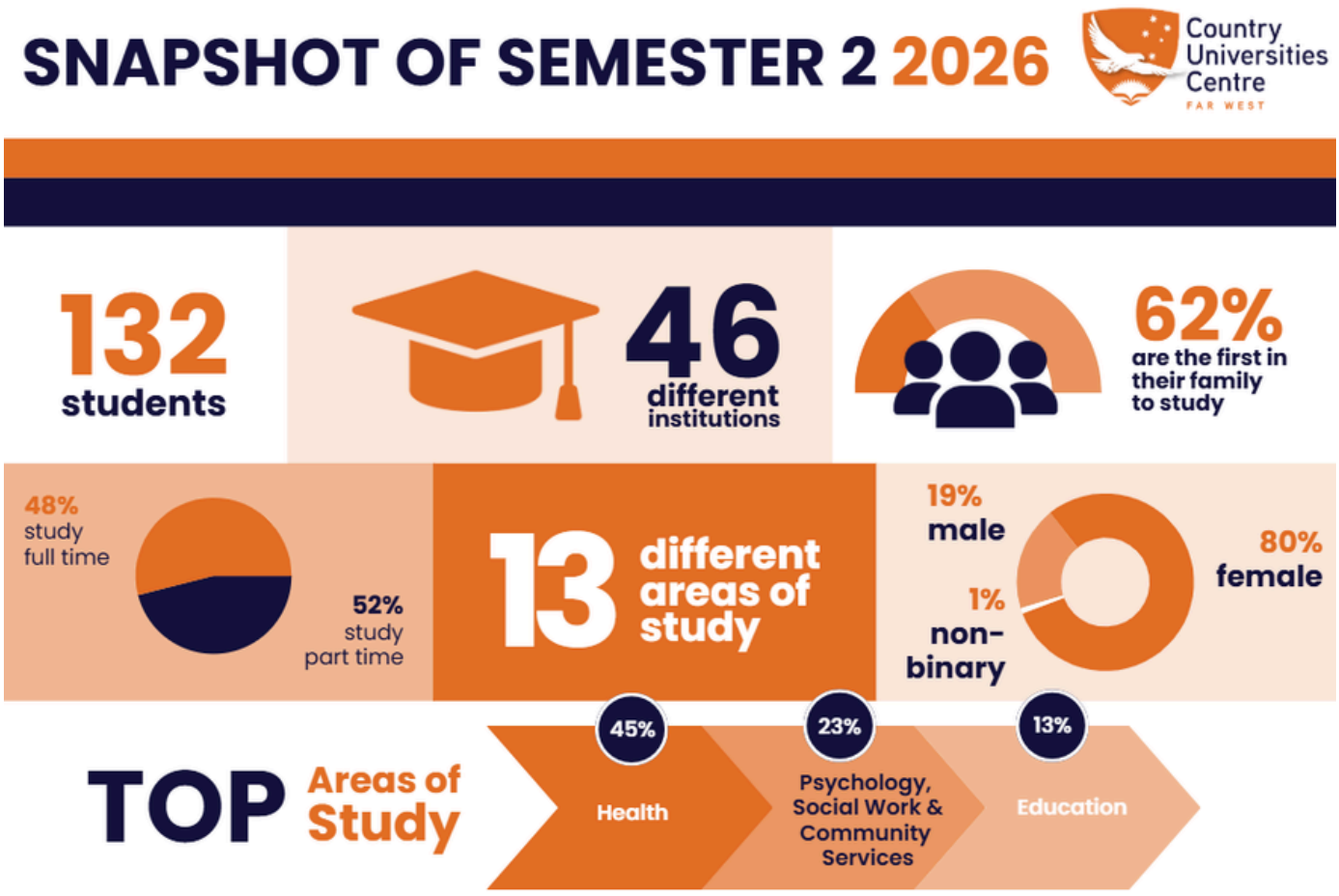
Another Strong Semester for CUC Far West

As Semester 2 progresses, CUC Far West is celebrating another year of growth and achievement. With several months still to go, our students have already shown outstanding dedication, resilience, and commitment to their studies.

This semester, 132 students are studying through 46 educational institutions, demonstrating the range of pathways pursued across the Far West. Health remains the most popular field, reflecting strong demand for healthcare professionals in regional and rural communities.

Since opening our doors in 2018, CUC Far West has continued to provide local people with access to higher education opportunities without the need to leave their community. Every enrolment represents a student taking a step towards achieving their personal, professional, and academic goals, and we are proud to support them along the way.

With the final months of Semester 2 still ahead, we look forward to celebrating more student successes and sharing further updates as our learner's progress towards completing another rewarding year of study.



2026 Careers Expo - August 2026

The CUC Far West team had the pleasure of attending the 2026 Regional Development Australia Far West Careers Expo.

Elle and Erica had some excellent conversations with young people about higher education pathways and the potential of studying from home right here in Broken Hill. Thank you to RDA for organising such a fantastic event!

If you're interested in higher education and wish to learn more, we're here to help.

Drop into the Centre on Crystal St, message on our socials or email degrees@cucfarwest.edu.au to get in touch





Spring into Study

The CUC Far West team spent a Saturday morning in Broken Hill's Town Square as part of our Spring into Study pop-up event, connecting with community members and sharing information about the Centre's free study spaces, student support services, and local higher education opportunities.



It was wonderful to chat with prospective students, parents, and community members, answer questions, and raise awareness of the support available to help people achieve their study and career goals close to home.



Thank you to everyone who stopped by for a chat. We loved connecting with the community and look forward to welcoming new and returning students to the Centre.

Celebrating Future Rural Nurses

In August, two local students were awarded the 2026 Corolla Capers Rural Nursing Scholarship, made possible through the generous support of Rotary Regency Park in partnership with CUC Far West.

The scholarship supports undergraduate nursing students who show dedication, ambition, and a commitment to rural and remote healthcare. From a $6,500 funding pool, two recipients were selected on merit, helping to ease the financial pressures of higher education while they prepare to make a positive difference in their communities.

This initiative highlights the importance of investing in local people to build a strong and sustainable rural healthcare workforce. By supporting students on their educational journey today, Rotary Regency Park and CUC Far West are helping to strengthen the health and wellbeing of rural communities for years to come.

We congratulate both scholarship recipients and wish them every success as they continue their nursing studies and work towards rewarding careers in rural healthcare.

Celebrating Our 2026 Graduates

One of the highlights on the CUC Far West calendar is the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students, and in February 2027 we will once again come together for our annual Alumni Celebration of Graduation.

The event will recognise students who completed their studies during 2026, marking the culmination of years of hard work, determination, and perseverance. Graduates, their families, friends and supporters will gather to celebrate academic success, and the positive impact higher education is having across the Far West.

For many graduates, the occasion is more than a celebration of a qualification. It is a chance to reflect on the challenges they have overcome, the goals they have achieved and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

We look forward to sharing this special event with our alumni and community. Stay tuned for our next newsletter edition, where we will bring you highlights from the celebration, graduate stories and plenty of photos from the night.



A Quiet Space for Big Dreams

As the Class of 2026 enters the final stretch before their HSC examinations, CUC Far West is once again opening its doors to support local students during one of the most important periods of their school journey.

During the HSC examination period, Year 12 students are invited to use the Centre to study and prepare for their next steps.

By registering with CUC Far West, students can access quiet study spaces, high-speed internet, dual-screen computers, and full kitchen facilities. Whether it is revising notes, completing practice papers, or simply finding a productive place to study, the Centre offers a welcoming environment designed to help students succeed.

The initiative reflects CUC Far West's commitment to supporting education at every stage, encouraging local students to build confidence, stay focused and achieve their potential.

To all Year 12 students sitting the HSC this year, we wish you every success. Your hard work and determination have brought you this far, and we are proud to support you on the journey.

Good luck, Class of 2026, you've got this.

Why study local:
Life at CUC Far West

Study right here in the Broken Hill Community and still have a campus- like experience!

- Stay local, study local
- Uni doesn't have to be far away
- Quiet study spaces
- Fast internet
- Modern dual-screen computers
- Bring your own laptop spaces
- Webcams for live tutorials
- FREE printing & copying
- Private study & exam rooms
- Personalised Learning Skills Advice
- Academic support
- A friendly, supportive community
- Register for access

