

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Wednesday 14 July 2021

### **Sheed hopes La Trobe shake up may benefit Shepparton campus**

Independent Member for Shepparton District Suzanna Sheed expressed her disappointment at the potential loss of 200 full-time positions at La Trobe University but is hopeful that the restructure may benefit Shepparton campus.

Ms Sheed was pleased to learn that Shepparton's La Trobe University will retain its subjects, which are vital to offer secondary school graduates the opportunity of a university education and the qualifications necessary to fill the abundance of locally-based skilled roles.

"With the Shepparton Education Plan in action and the building of Shepparton's own Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, it is an exciting time to be a student or education worker in Shepparton," Ms Sheed said.

"It is important that we continue to provide local education avenues for students who wish to continue their post-secondary school education at home.

"While it is devastating to see potential job losses across the university sector, I believe there will be minimal impact on the Shepparton campus staff.

"I am hopeful that with the creation of 100 "location-independent" roles, more of La Trobe's staff members will make the move to Shepparton and become a part of regional Victoria's educational boom.

"Shepparton is on the precipice of a regional education boom, and I am excited for more educators and education staff to move to the Goulburn Valley and join the exciting movement.

"Not only is Shepparton the ideal location to raise young children, it is becoming a hub for skilled career-focused people who want to be a part of a welcoming community and a beautiful environment, with accessible transport to and from Melbourne, which is now being heavily invested in.

"While the figures for Shepparton secondary school graduates continuing to tertiary education have fallen in the past five years, we see a steep rise in those transitioning from school into the workforce.

"This is a positive trend in terms of young people becoming financially independent from a young age, but their long-term earning potential can dramatically increase if they receive a university degree.

“The number of students who deferred their tertiary education in Shepparton last year was double the state average but their primary reason for their deferral was to start earning their own money.

“However, in the Goulburn Valley, they can have the best of both worlds by taking up a part-time job locally, while studying at Shepparton’s La Trobe University campus.”

**Media contact**

Elaine Cooney 0447 820 466 | [elaine.cooney@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:elaine.cooney@parliament.vic.gov.au)