



Media Release  
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## **Pilbara Universities Centre gathering momentum**

Momentum for a Pilbara Universities Centre (PUC) is growing with stakeholder, community and tutor meetings taking place in Karratha at the end of July.

The Geraldton Universities Centre completed a feasibility study into a PUC toward the end of last year, and, with the recent announcement of \$15million in Federal Government funding to help establish regional university hubs, will return to Karratha to see how the community can take advantage of the funding opportunity.

"In announcing the funding, the Federal Government cited both our Geraldton model and the Pilbara feasibility study," GUC Director Natalie Nelmes said.

"We think this puts the Pilbara in an excellent position to attract some of this funding. The GUC Board has committed to drive a PUC, including making an application for this funding, if there is the community support for us to do so."

Member for Durack Melissa Price will address the stakeholder meeting about the Federal funding.

"We've worked with Ms Price to convene the stakeholder meeting so that we can all understand more about this funding but also to discuss the roles that the community, through an Advisory body, GUC and CQUniversity can take in this project."

CQUniversity is GUC's largest university partner and has already established a presence in the Pilbara with a study hub and around 30 enrolled students supported by local coordinator Sharyn Hearson.

"CQUniversity have indicated they remain committed to partnering with GUC in any Pilbara Universities Centre so we are all working towards the same goal, to provide the local community with the very best supported mixed mode university education in the Pilbara," Ms Nelmes said.

"Mixed mode means blending online curriculum and experiences with face-to-face support. The support provided would be administrative, pastoral and importantly academic. That's why we are currently seeking expressions of interest from professionals who may have an interest in tutoring at a PUC on a casual, sessional basis in the future."

GUC will convene a meeting for potential tutors at 5:45pm, Thursday 27 July.

A community information session, where potential students can learn more about the development of a Pilbara Universities Centre and express interest for courses, will precede the tutor meeting at 5pm. Both meetings will take place at the conference room at Welcome Lotteries House, 7 Morse Court, Karratha.