



Advocacy Policy Kit

University Infrastructure Funding

Updated: 18 May 2026

Key Message

Aging infrastructure is limiting the number of students we can train in critical workforce areas. Targeted government investment is needed so regional universities can increase student numbers and meet critical workforce demand. It's a critical issue for CSU because we don't have the same access to investments, philanthropic funding and international student revenue that many other universities have.

Background

Universities have historically relied on government funding and international student revenue to build and maintain infrastructure.

That is no longer the case.

- Government capital funding has gone
- International revenue is significantly lower and now unreliable due to policy volatility.

As a result, infrastructure across the sector, particularly in regional areas, is aging and under pressure.

At Charles Sturt University, some facilities are already no longer fit for purpose, including nursing and health training infrastructure in Bathurst and Wagga Wagga.

Why it matters

Outdated infrastructure is directly limiting growth in student numbers.

This means:

- Fewer places in high-demand courses like nursing and allied health
- Constraints on delivering modern, hands-on training
- Reduced ability to respond to regional workforce shortages

If we cannot expand and modernise facilities, we cannot increase the number of graduates entering the workforce.



What we need

CSU is calling for targeted infrastructure funding to support regional universities to renew and expand critical teaching facilities.

We are seeking:

- A dedicated funding stream for university infrastructure
- Priority for regional campuses and workforce-critical courses
- Investment to upgrade aging, no-longer-fit-for-purpose facilities

Quick Facts

- University infrastructure is aging and underfunded
- Our deferred and backlog maintenance liability is \$68.9M (2025)
- Traditional funding sources are no longer sufficient
- Some CSU facilities are already not fit for purpose
- Infrastructure constraints are limiting student numbers
- Expanding infrastructure would enable more graduates in critical fields
- CSU plays a key role in delivering the regional workforce pipeline
- An upgrade/renovation of Bathurst campus nursing facilities could increase student capacity from 1,500 to 1772 per year.
- A new, state of the art nursing building in Bathurst could increase student capacity from 1,500 to 2,212 per year.
- Our Port Macquarie campus (graduating 89 nurses, 54 paramedics and 19 teachers in 2025) was only possible due to State Government funding

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