



Bringing learning to regional communities: Designing the ^{new} game

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Widening access and increasing participation

Drivers for regional engagement in education:

“Australia needs a sustainable system of higher education provision in regional and remote areas. Provision needs to be flexible and innovative. It must anticipate and respond rapidly to local needs.

Providers in regional and remote areas need to be encouraged and supported to build upon partnerships with local communities, providers in other sectors of education, businesses and industry.



(Bradley et al. 2008, p.111)

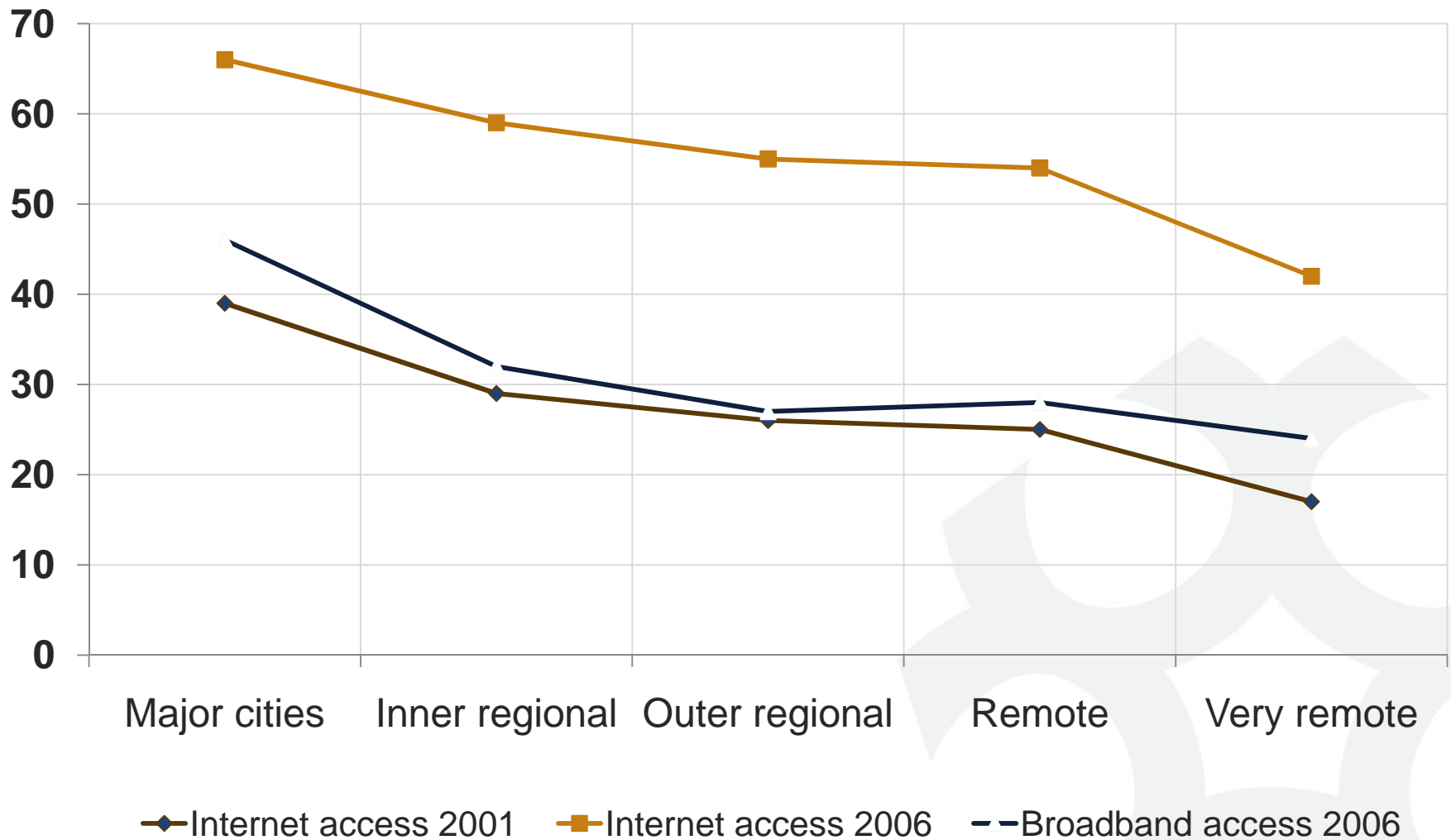
Inhibitors to regional access and participation

Regional communities report ...

1. Low aspirations and school completion rates
2. Limited educational pathways (school-VET-HE)
3. Social/cultural exclusion
4. Limited access to technology, the internet and academic skills development

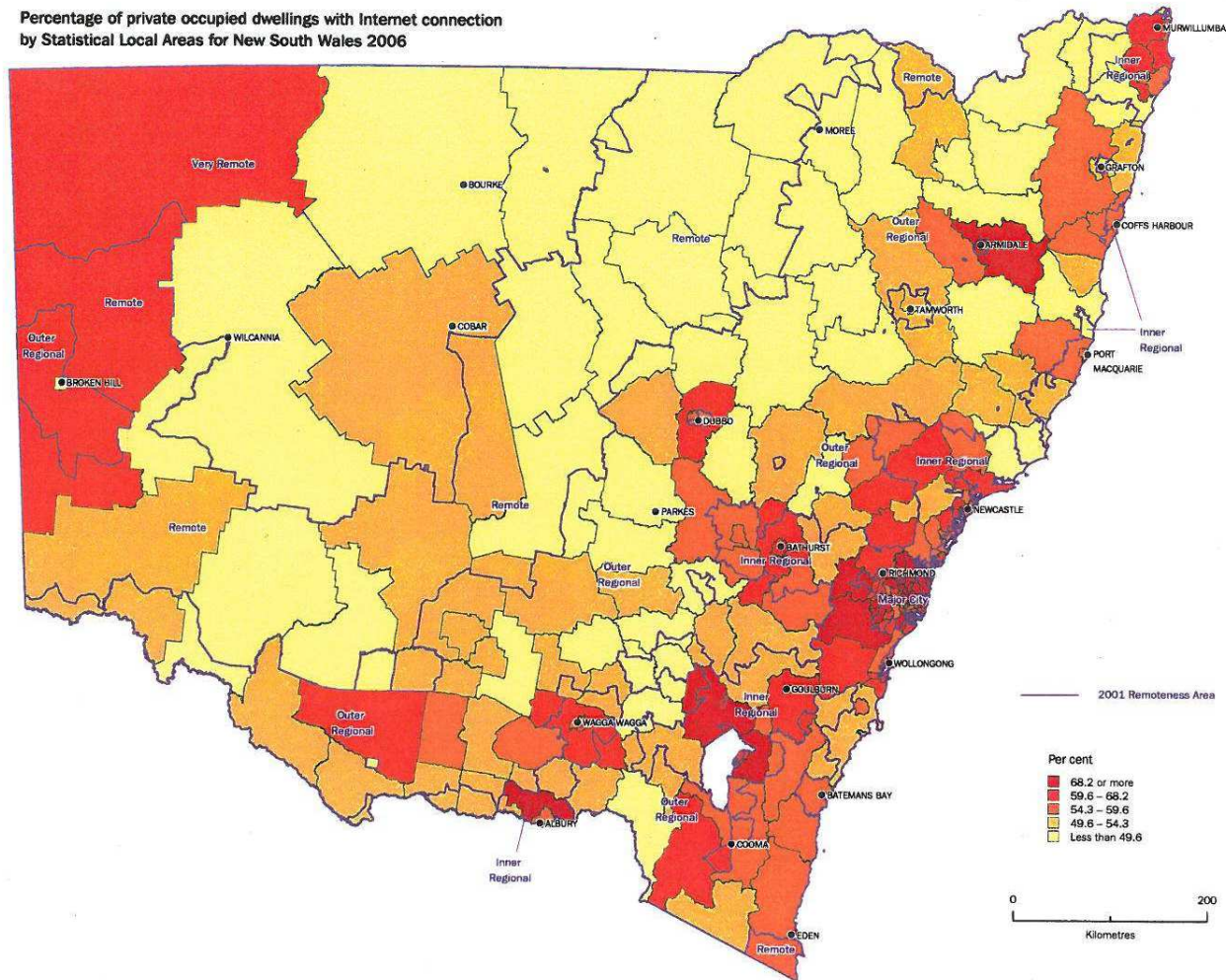


Internet and broadband access by remoteness %



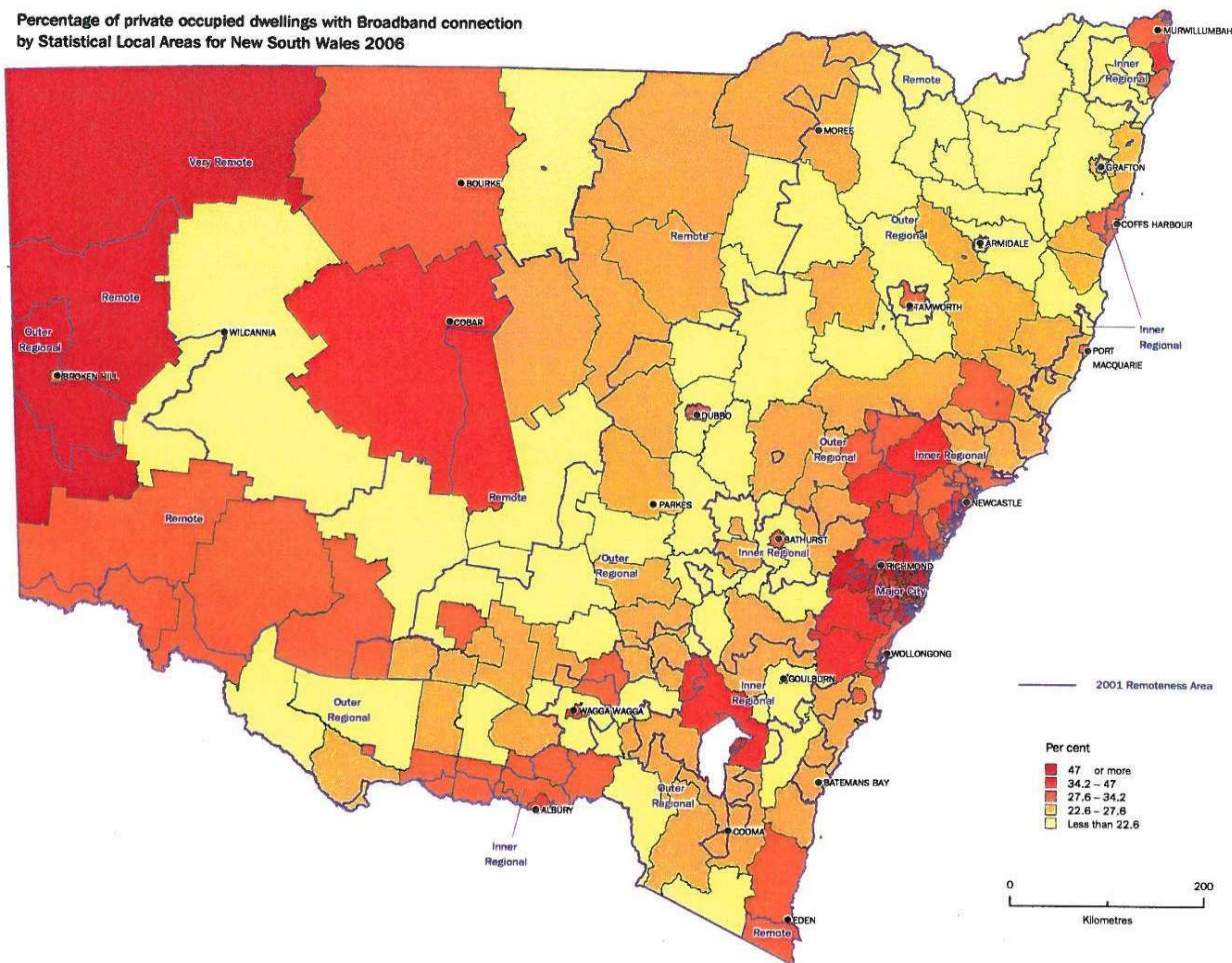
Technology support for learning: Internet connection at home?

Percentage of private occupied dwellings with Internet connection
by Statistical Local Areas for New South Wales 2006





Technology support for learning: Broadband connection at home?



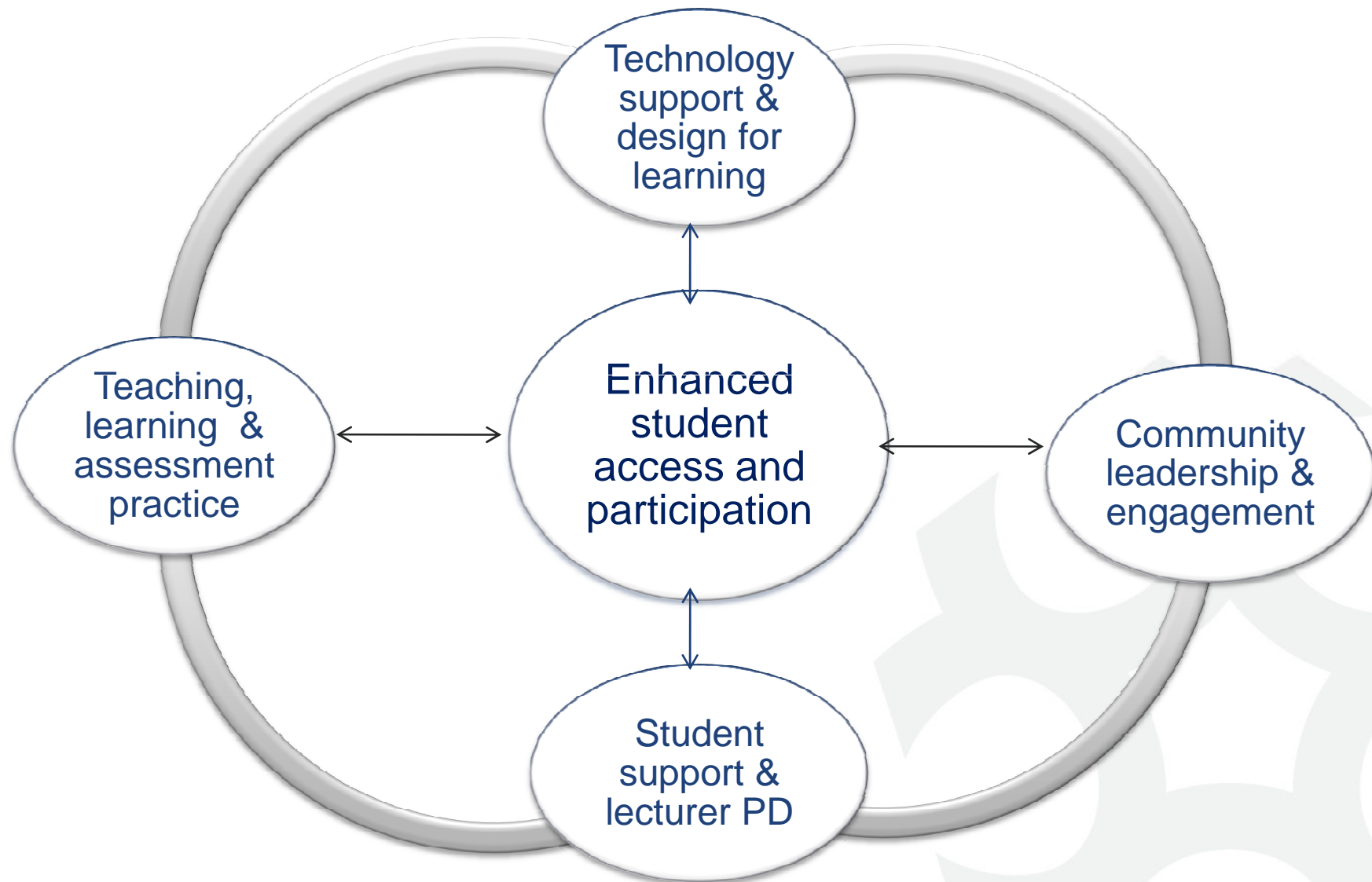
Enablers to regional access and participation

Research suggests ...

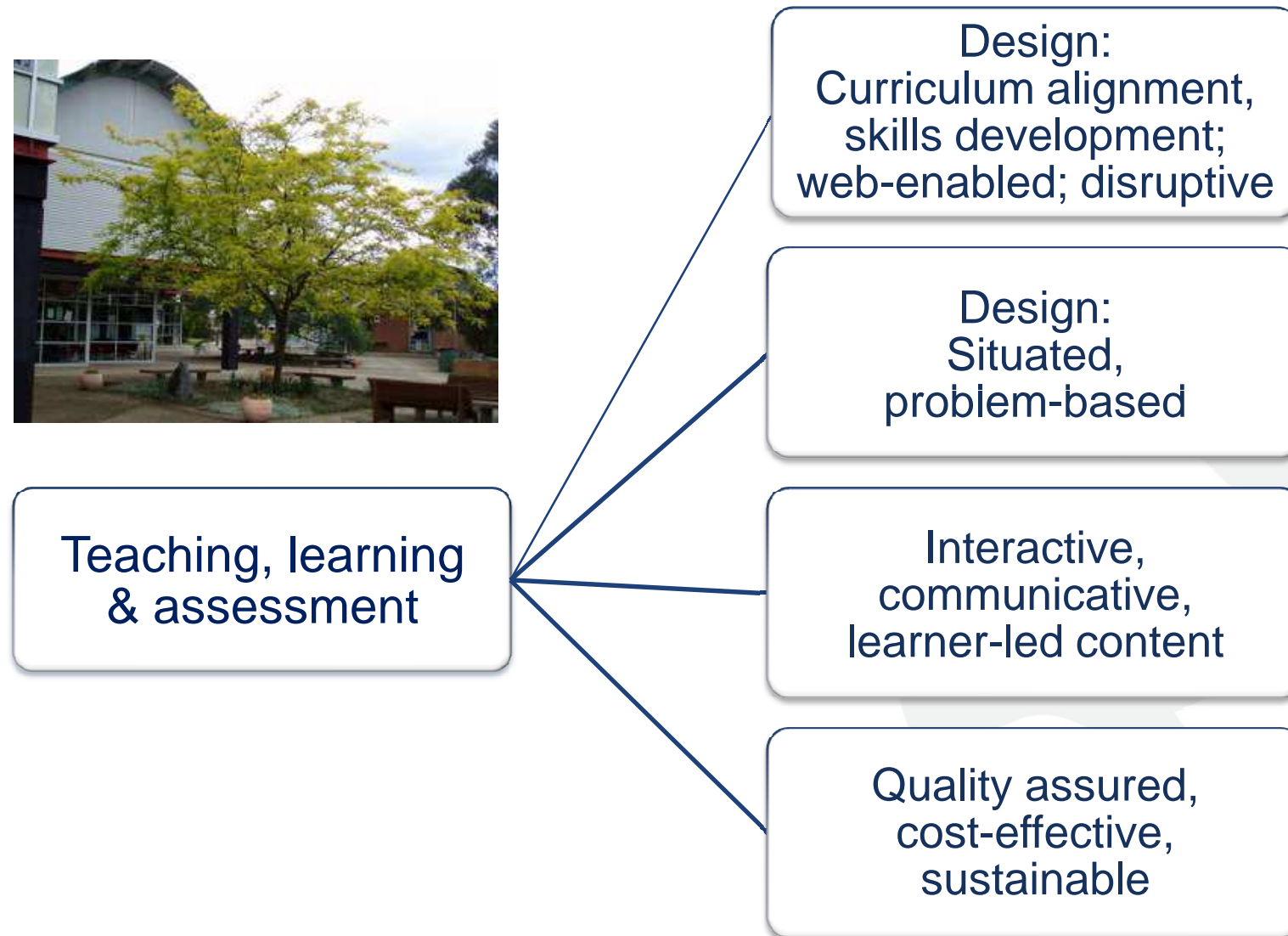
1. Institutional commitment and strategies to widen access and increase participation (e.g. Lefoe 2003)
2. Regional educational design
3. Specified educational pathways (cross-sectoral) from school-VET-HE
4. Sharing of infrastructure and resources (educational providers, government bodies and industry) to enhance access to technology and academic support
5. Community leadership and engagement



Elements of regional design framework



Design of teaching, learning & assessment strategies



Technology support for learning: Equal access?



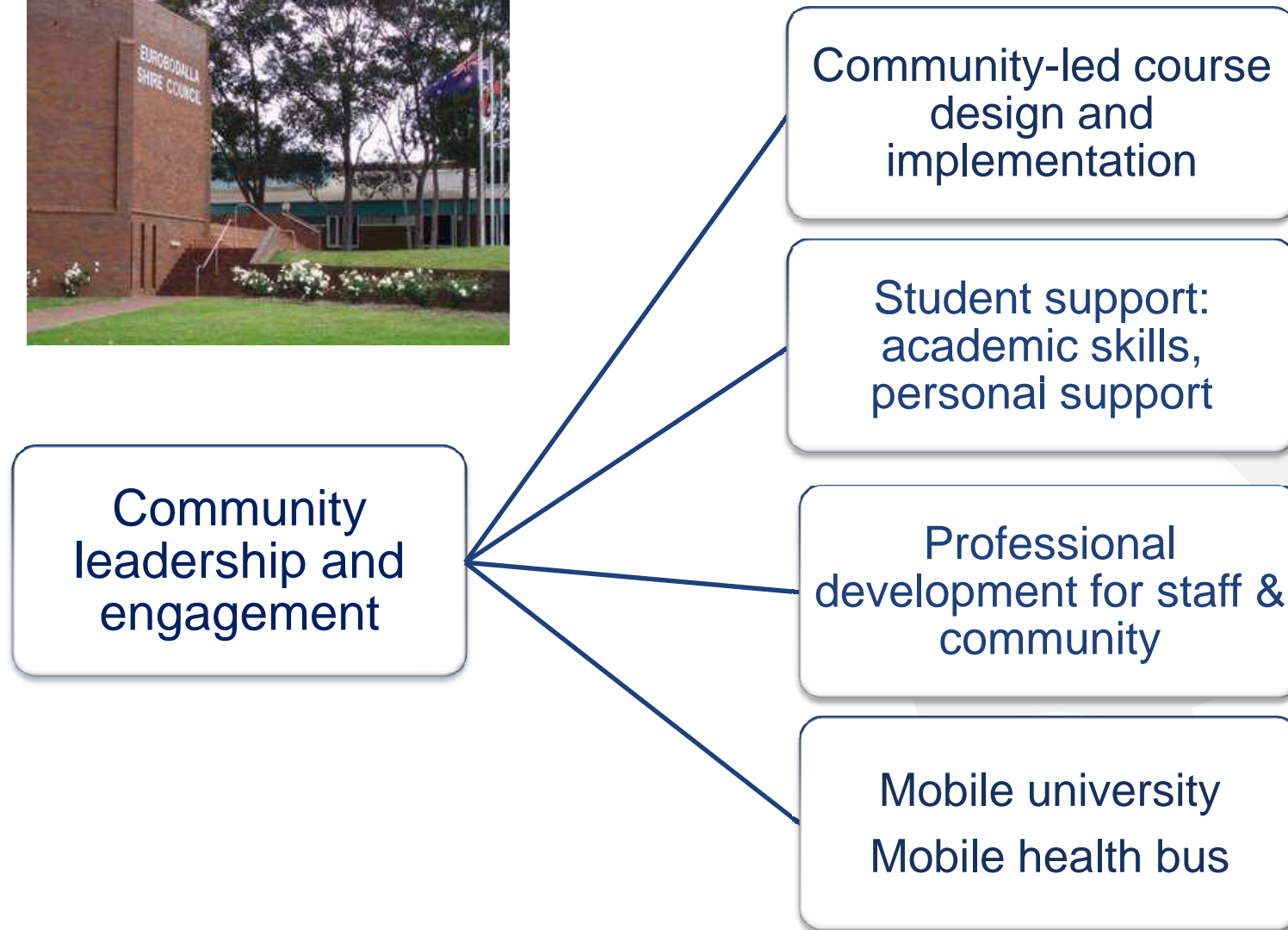
Technological
equipment &
infrastructure

Computers and
video-conferencing:
TAFE & schools?

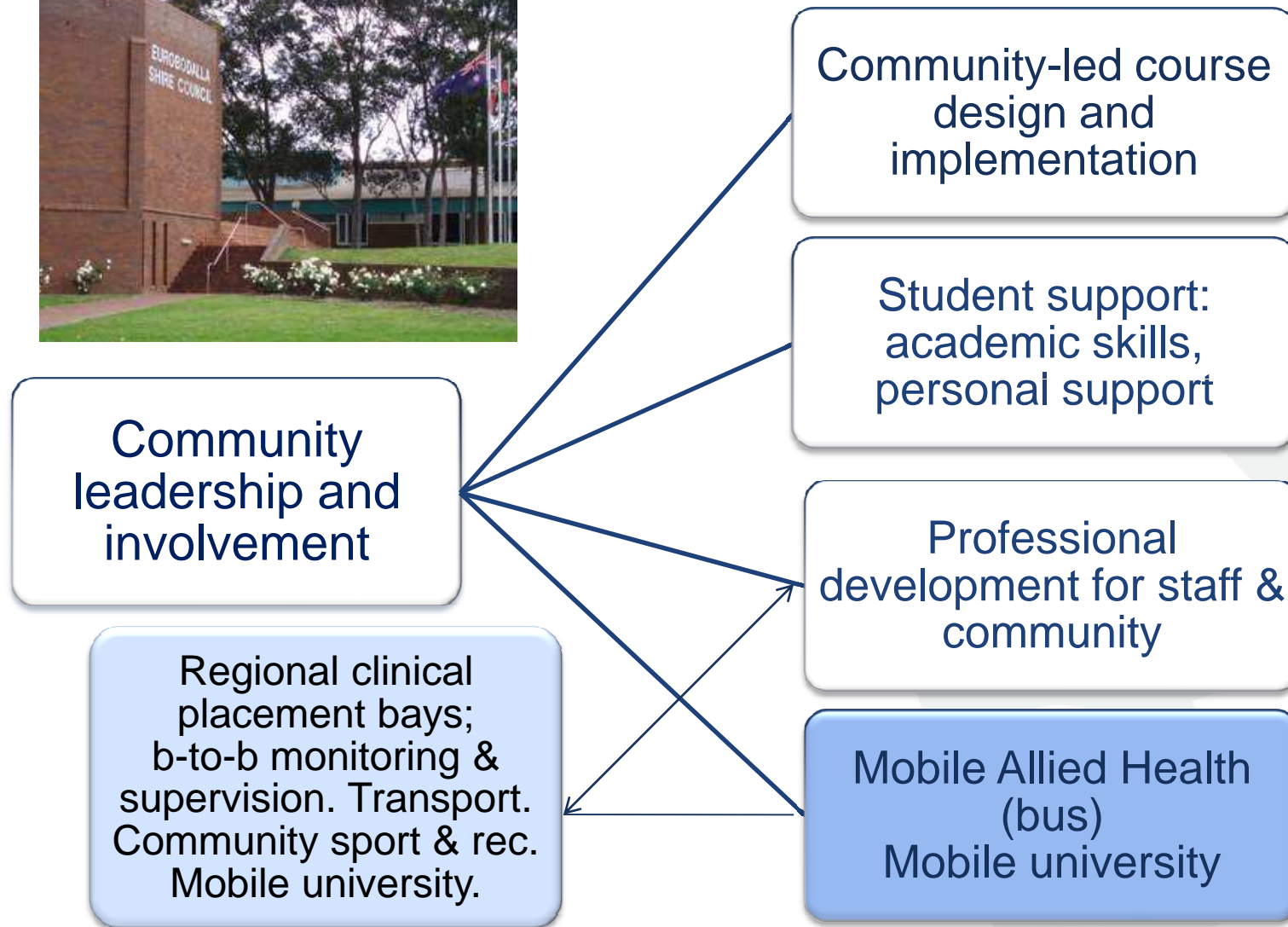
Education Centres &
libraries?

Internet access &
broadband:
Maccas?
Gloria Jeans?

Community leadership & engagement



Community leadership & engagement



What strategies do you/ would you use to increase participation in regional communities?

Group discussion/ brainstorm:

1. Share experiences: How do you/ would you support learning for young and mature aged people living in regional areas?
2. Summarise the three most useful technology-based strategies.



Conclusion: A new game (based on old rules)

1. Regional communities face intergenerational disadvantage and reduced access to technology and the internet.
2. Enhancing participation in regional education requires innovative, integrated approaches to educational design, application of technologies and meaningful engagement with community members.

