



*Wagga Wagga is a regional centre of learning excellence that boasts a range of educational opportunities with services available for the youngest community members through to senior citizens. The City has a large number of primary and high schools and a strong tertiary sector which includes University, TAFE and Community College options. There is also an important defence force training presence with the Army and Air Force bases forming part of the educational community. The Wagga Wagga educational sector creates a number of flow-on benefits for the wider region including job creation, solid economic growth and a multicultural society from the influx of international students and Air Force and Army recruits.*

### **Charles Sturt University**

The Wagga Wagga campus of Charles Sturt University (CSU) is an essential provider of tertiary education in the Riverina, around Australia and on an international stage. CSU offers a large range of courses across the Arts, Business, Education and Science faculties with some exceptional opportunities for students. For example the Wine Science and Food Science courses give students the chance to work in an on-campus commercial winery and cheese factory, while the Vet Science and Equine Management and Chemistry students have access to state of the art facilities and the world class Equine Centre. The University is continuing to grow with the addition of new courses each year.

CSU has an internationally recognised research arm with particular focus on the agriculture sector. The University community welcomes a large number of international students to its campus and into the wider Wagga Wagga district annually. CSU is also a leader in distance education, offering a large number of tertiary courses by correspondence.

### **TAFE**

Wagga Wagga has one of the largest TAFE NSW Riverina Institute campuses and offers a range of different education options to students around the region. Students can select from a variety of specialist training courses in Building and Construction, Engineering, Transport and Hair and Beauty. Tourism and Hospitality students gain hands on experience in the on-campus licensed training restaurant which seats up to 150 people.

The local campus is also part of the University Study Centre which allows students to enrol in integrated Diploma/Degree programs through a partnership with Charles Sturt University. Through this integrated approach, students undertake a program of TAFE and University courses to obtain a nationally recognised qualification at the completion of their study.

### **The RAAF Base**

The RAAF Base Wagga is the largest ground training Base in the Air Force, providing initial entry, initial employment and post graduate training. RAAF Base Wagga has approximately 1300 staff, and graduates approximately 4,500 trainees per year.

RAAF Base Wagga is home to: Combat Support Unit Wagga; the RAAF College Headquarters; No 1 Recruit Training Unit; the RAAF School of Technical Training, who provide aviation trade training to all three military services; the RAAF School of Administration and Logistics Training; the RAAF School of Post-Graduate Studies, and No 28 Squadron Detachment A (Reserves).

### **Kapooka Military Area**

The Army Recruit Training Centre is located at the Kapooka Military Area based in Wagga Wagga. Here, approximately 3,500 recruits complete an intense 11 week training course each year in order to produce the highest level of soldiers for the Australian Army.

## **FACT SHEET: "Wagga Wagga – City of Learning"**

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In addition, the Kapooka Military Area also conducts the Australian Defence Force Gap Year Program as well as training 1750 Army Reservists annually. Recruit families travel from all corners of Australia to watch spectacular 'March Out' Parades.

### **Primary Schools and High Schools**

Wagga Wagga has a diverse range of formal education providers for families to choose from with a large number of Government and non-Government schools in the district. There are 14 Government primary schools strategically located across the City to provide easy access for established suburbs and growth centres. The eight non-Government primary schools offer an alternative style of education and include a number of Catholic schools, a Lutheran school, and an Adventist school.

There are three Government high schools and four non-Government high schools to cater for Wagga Wagga City and the surrounding region. The Wagga Wagga Christian College has classes from Kindergarten through to Year 12.

### **Special Education**

The special education sector in Wagga Wagga gives children with learning difficulties or disabilities much needed support throughout their schooling. The Kurrajong Early Intervention Facility provides specialised therapy, educational and family support services for families who have young children with developmental delays and disabilities. Willans Hill School helps children with intellectual disabilities with specialised education programs.

There are also services to assist students with behavioural problems at Bidgee School while the Wagga Wagga District Transition helps students with disabilities to make successful transitions during and post their schooling years. The disability unit at the Riverina Institute of TAFE offers adjustment and tutorial support.

### **Pre-Schools, Playgroups, Before and After School Care**

There are a total of nine pre-schools spread across Wagga Wagga to service the City and wider community. The pre-schools provide an important social experience and introduction to a more structured learning environment for young children before they attend primary school.

Wagga Wagga also has a thriving playgroup setup where parents and children can meet on a regular basis. Playgroup allows parents the opportunity to form a support network while giving their young children the chance to develop new social skills and participate in a natural and informal play environment.

For families who need childcare assistance outside of school hours, Wagga Wagga has seven Before and After School care providers. At these facilities, children participate in fun activities while also developing new interests and skills.

### **Other Further Education Options**

The Riverina Community College was founded in Wagga Wagga to deliver adult education. There are now a large number of centres established across the Riverina to offer a wide variety of general and accredited courses. The College also provides tailored corporate training to businesses, organisations and industry in the region.

The Wagga Wagga School for Seniors is a source of educational, physical and social activities conducted each Friday throughout the general school term. Activities include art classes, creative writing sessions, music for relaxation, social dance and exercise groups. Participants can also register for beginner computer and Japanese language classes.

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