

Faith and Futures

Exploring the Impact of Religious Beliefs on Career Choices in Rural High Schools



Greetings!



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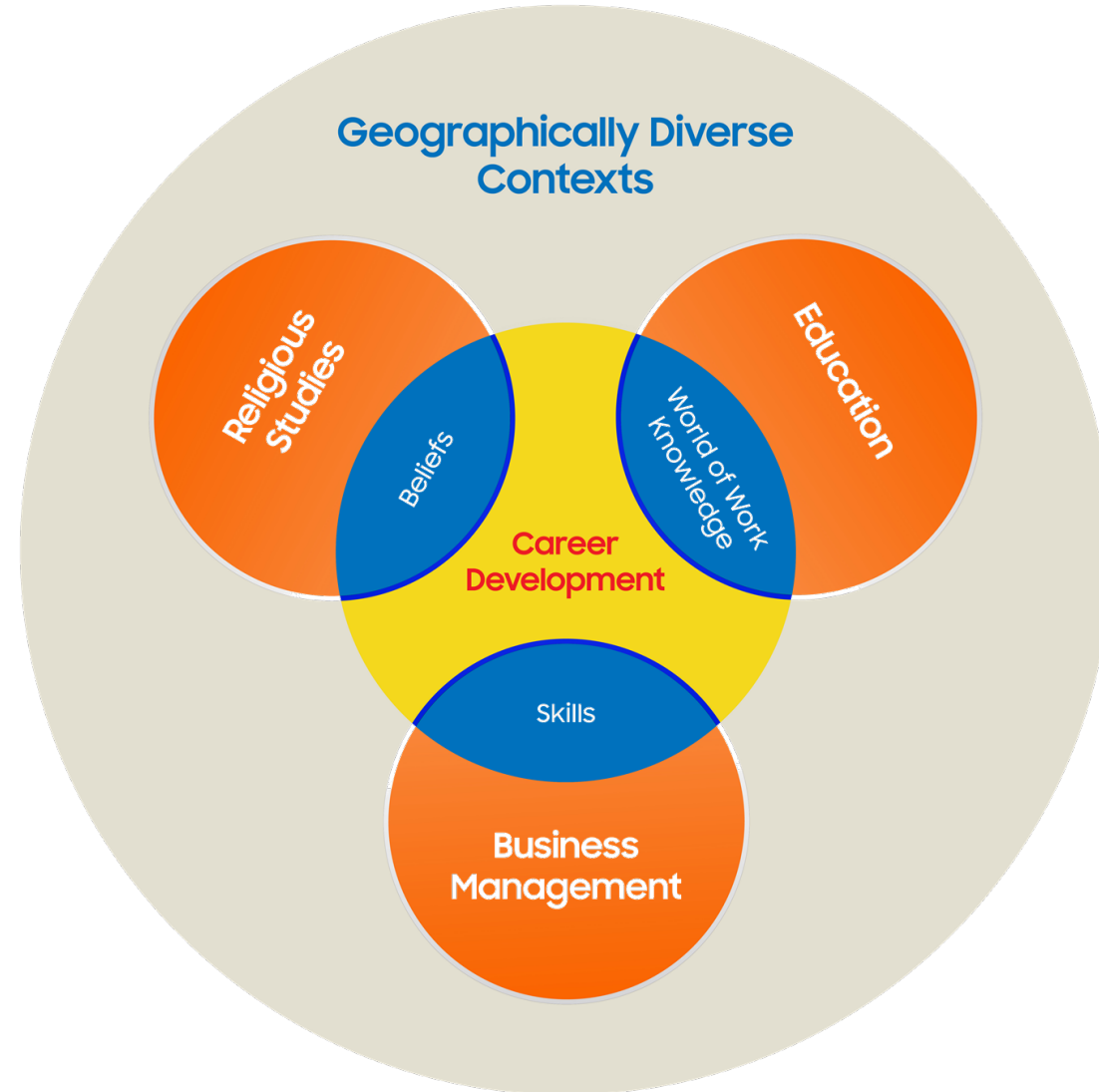
School: Career Education

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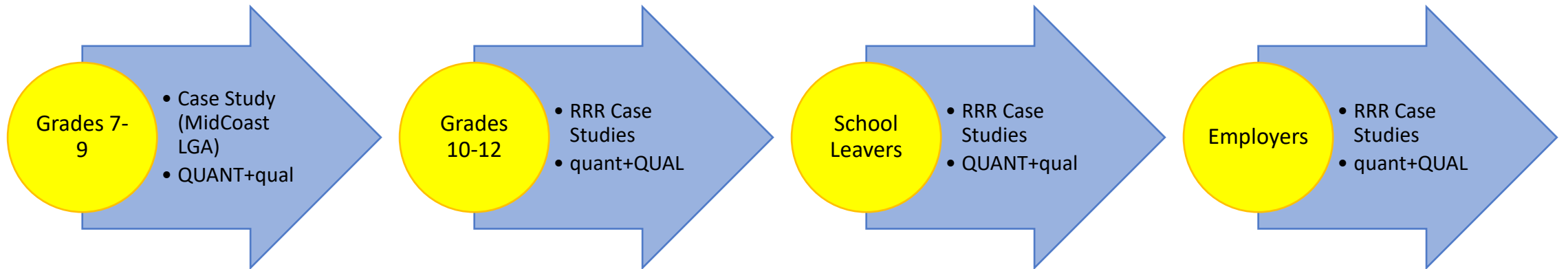


Contextualising this Research



Contextualising this Research

You are here



Faith and Regional, Remote and Rural Schools

Case Study: Examining the role of faith in career decision making of senior high school students.

Context: Regional, remote and rural communities.

Existing Research

Not much

- Research primarily focused on specific student populations:
 - Seminary students (Duffy & Blustein 2005, Hernandez 2011, Hirsto & Buchert 2016)
 - Education students (Kilinc & Mahiroglu 2009)
 - STEM students (Moorman 2011)



Why Regional, Remote and Rural?



Limited research exists on geographic location's impact on career development

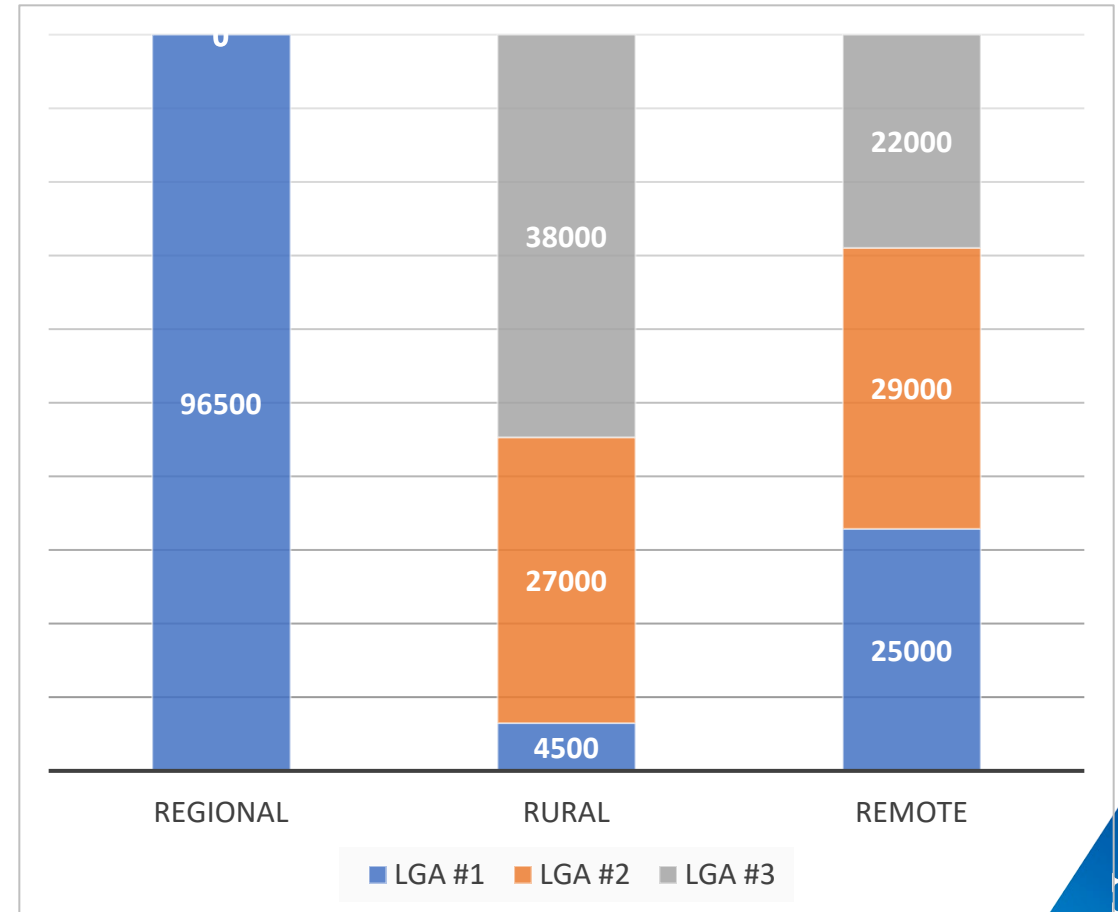
- Rural/remote education is emerging as distinct field but not yet in career context
- Patton & McMahon note geographic location as underexplored in Systems Theory (2021)
- Educational institutions are primary influence on career decisions in rural/remote areas

Case Studies

Case Studies across 7 local government areas:

- 1x NSW Regional (96,500)
- 3x QLD Rural (69,500)
- 1x NT Remote (25,000)
- 2x WA Remote (51,000)

ABS Census, 2021

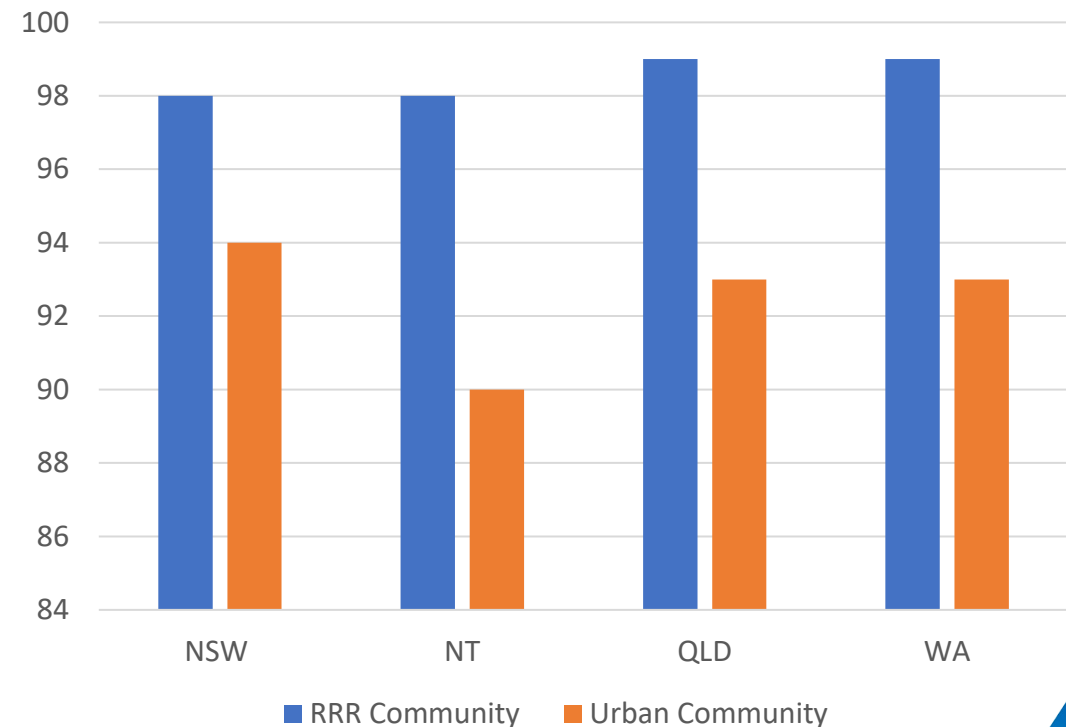


Religious Affiliation

We typically see higher levels of religious affiliation in regional, remote and rural areas compared to their urban counterparts.

In addition, we tend to see higher levels of Faith Engagement in Regional, Remote and Rural schools compared to urban schools (Archer, in press).

% of 2021 Census Respondents Claiming Religious Affiliation/Beliefs



Qualitative Research

- Semi-structured interviews with focus groups across grades 10 – 12 in each RRR community.
- Questions organised into themes
- Analysed used a reflexive thematic analysis approach

Post-School Plans

Community Expectations

Geographic Location

Spiritual & Religious Beliefs

Access to Career Advisors

Forthcoming Publications

1. Scoping Review – in progress. Expected 2025 publication.
2. Qualitative article – pending ethics approval and school availability. 2026? Maybe?



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