



Port Augusta University Centre celebrates five years of local impact

24 July 2025

Uni Hub Spencer Gulf's Port Augusta University Centre had hit a major milestone, providing five years of local access to university study and student support in the region.

The centre celebrated its fifth birthday on Wednesday (23 July) with local students, staff and community supporters.

The event was a moment to reflect on the Port Augusta University Centre's journey. From an ambitious idea to a successful regional study hub helping to deliver meaningful change for students and the wider community.

Centre Manager Shanon Pillion said the milestone was a proud moment for everyone who had supported the centre since its doors opened in 2020.

"Five years ago, we set out to create a place where local people could pursue higher education without leaving home. Today, we have more than 80 students who are studying through the Port Augusta University Centre and choosing to stay locally while building their future," she said.

"Every one of those students has a different story. Some are just out of school, others are retraining or upskilling for a career change. But what they all share is the courage to pursue something big, and we're so proud to support them."

Ms Pillion said the success of the Port Augusta University Centre was a testament to strong community partnerships, the support of education providers, and the dedication of students who believed in the vision.

"We wouldn't be here today without our community - the schools who welcome us in, the industry partners who work with us, the staff and tutors who guide our students, and of course the students themselves, who took a chance on something new," she said.

"We often say that our role is more than just helping people enrol in a course. It's about helping them find a pathway and having a conversation that empowers them to take the next step."

The Port Augusta University Centre was the second to open under the Uni Hub Spencer Gulf model, following the launch of the Port Pirie University Centre in 2019. It has since been joined by university centres in Copper Coast and Port Lincoln, a study hub in Roxby Downs and outreach services to Minlaton, Burra, Whyalla and Wudinna. The Uni Hub is an initiative of the Federal Government's Regional University Study Hubs program.

Since launching in 2019, Uni Hub Spencer Gulf has grown from just a handful of students to more than 500, working in partnership with universities to offer locally accessible degrees that align with regional workforce needs.

“Five years on, we’re still driven by the same goal: to give people in our community the chance to study, succeed and stay,” Ms Pillion said.

“Our five-year celebration recognises this vision and of the people who continue to make it possible.”

Contact: Uni Hub Spencer Gulf Marketing and Media Coordinator Renae Murdoch:
8656 9952 or renae.murdoch@unihubsg.org