

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **UTAS education students win \$1m in scholarships from WA Education Department**

The Department of Education and Training in Western Australia has awarded 40 UTAS education students nearly \$1million dollars in scholarships in a bid to fill a predicted future gap in teacher numbers in that State.

The scholarships have been awarded to students completing a teaching qualification who will qualify to teach in high priority areas such as primary teaching, and secondary teaching in agriculture, design and technology, English, home economics, mathematics and science (physics and chemistry).

The recipients will be contracted to Western Australian Government to teach in a rural location for two years immediately after graduating. Successful recipients must make themselves available for employment State-wide.

The scholarships are valued at between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per year for up to 2 years.

The Dean of Education, Professor Ian Hay, said the future teachers from UTAS had done extremely well in the hand-out of scholarships.

“We are pleased to work with the WA Education Department to support the early career development of UTAS graduates. Our graduates are highly-regarded,” he said.

“In 2008 only 10 of the annual scholarships were awarded to Tasmanian students but because of Western Australia’s anticipated teacher shortage of primary school teachers especially, it seems that UTAS education students have the necessary skills to fill the some of the gap in 2010.”

The UTAS Faculty of Education also has a new project with the Tasmanian Department of Education.

This initiative encourages final year education students to spend more time in Tasmanian schools with a mentor teacher, with the expectation that these future teachers will teach in Tasmanian schools.

*For further information please contact Professor Ian Hay, ph. 6324 3144.*

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