

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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Agreement aims to make Tasmania a new national model for education

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen and TasTAFE CEO Stephen Conway today signed an agreement to pave the way for significant advances in the delivery of education in the State.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the pair is the result of a recent review into vocational education and training in Tasmania, and aims to establish the State as a model for the rest of the nation.

“A central plank of our strategic plan, *Open to Talent*, is the strength of the University’s relationship with its community,” Professor Rathjen said.

“That is what brings us together today – a commitment to our community delivered through a positive and productive working relationship with TasTAFE and, more broadly, UTAS and the State Government.”

The MoU is built around five core principles:

- Collaboration on infrastructure and resources to increase the number of domestic and international students in Tasmania.
- Increasing student numbers on pathways to tertiary education and within tertiary education, focussed on completion and attainment outcomes.
- Engaging school students about the opportunities in tertiary education.
- Providing flexible entry, re-entry and exit points into tertiary education for adults.
- Delivering tertiary education that meets the workforce development needs of the public and private sectors, working within an economy in transition.

Professor Rathjen said education and skills attainment across the State was central to Tasmania’s future prosperity.

“Deloitte’s recent report, *Positioning for Prosperity? Catching the next wave*, recognised Tasmania’s superb strengths in areas such as agribusiness, tourism and international education. The University will also play an important

role in identifying and training new workforces in vital fields such as health,” he said.

“These growth opportunities will only be realised if Tasmania has the skilled and capable people to pursue and deliver them. The demand for higher levels of skill is real and ongoing.”

Practical examples arising from the MoU include:

- Increasing numbers of articulation pathways between TasTAFE and UTAS.
- An investigation into a shared library and learning space in the Hobart Central Business District.
- Shared teaching between the institutions into courses such as Engineering.
- Shared knowledge and experience around teaching, including areas such as eLearning.

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