

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Saul Eslake named University's inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Fellow

Tasmanian economist, commentator and public intellectual Saul Eslake has been appointed as the inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Tasmania.

These prestigious positions provide in-residence status at the University for outstanding intellectuals or other figures, providing a platform for them to contribute to the University's mission in their area of expertise.

Having schooled at Smithton in the State's North-West and subsequently Hutchins, in Hobart, Mr Eslake graduated with a Bachelor of Economics (first-class honours) in 1979. He has had a distinguished career in both the government and private sector, serving as chief economist of the ANZ Bank and chief economist to the Australian arm of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said Mr Eslake would be an outstanding inaugural Fellow.

"Apart from a distinguished career in economics, he has a breadth of experience across a range of issues pertinent to the state and nation, including education," Professor Rathjen said.

"He will be a source of inspiration, a powerful voice within the community and a mentor to staff and students.

"One of the many distinctive strengths at the University of Tasmania is our history in the research and teaching of economics. Saul took that education, that opportunity, and used it to build a global reputation in his field.

"His is a story about the importance of a genuinely world-class higher education here in Tasmania which allows our young people to be, quite literally, the very best in the world."

Mr Eslake will join the University of Tasmania's Institute for the Study of Social Change, where he will work with another distinguished public voice, the institute's Director, Professor Richard Eccleston. He will provide advice and leadership on new research programs designed to analyse and address the social and economic challenges facing our local community and nation as a whole; in particular the importance of education to Tasmania.

“I accept the Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow role with great pride and look forward to continuing my ongoing association with the University of Tasmania,” Mr Eslake said.

“A reason for my interest in this is a sense of wanting to give back to an institution which provided the basis of the life that I’ve lived to this point”.

“It also is a genuine institution of influence and will have a guiding role in the sort of future our State can expect to have.”

o On May 10, Mr Eslake will feature in a panel of experts and community leaders to discuss the implications of the 2016 federal budget. The event will be held at the University of Tasmania at the Stanley Burbury Theatre from 6pm.

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