



MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER
ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



New dental teaching facilities to train local oral health staff

Local DHHS Oral Health Services Tasmania dental therapists and dental assistants are the first to use brand new dental teaching facilities at the University's Rural Clinical School in Burnie.

Nineteen North West dental therapists are participating in a professional development session on "Clinical Peridontal Skills" covering periodontics and ultrasonic scaling. The course is being conducted by two senior lecturers with the University of Adelaide's School of Dentistry – Cathy Snelling and Sophie Karanicolas.

An additional program is running today in adjacent Rural Clinical School facilities for 18 dental assistants.

Roseanne Robinson, Oral Health Services Tasmania (OHST) Area Manager for the North West, is thrilled to be able to access additional high-quality facilities within the region. She says that it has enabled this professional development to be undertaken without impacting on service delivery in OHST clinics.

RCS Chief Executive Professor Judi Walker says the dental teaching facilities were included in recent building extensions to provide opportunities for additional oral health training to occur in the North West region.

Prof Walker is hoping the PD session will be the precursor to future oral health training opportunities using the RCS facilities.

"We're hoping to continue to expand final year clinical placements for dental students and to include the North West among the placement locations. A current partnership arrangement between UTAS, DHHS and the University of Adelaide has seen final

year University of Adelaide dental students undertaking extended practical placements in both Hobart and Launceston over the last four years,” Prof Walker said.

“This program has been highly successful with newly-qualified dentists attracted to take up jobs in Tasmania following positive placement experiences,” she said.

Best photo and interview opportunities:

Monday 28 September 10.30am – 11.00am at the Rural Clinical School

(The RCS is co-located between the NW Regional Hospital and the NW Private Hospital off Brickport Road, Cooe. Turn left into Hospital Road, then first left again for parking. The RCS is on your right.)

For more information:

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