

MEDIA RELEASE

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Values in public life under the spotlight

Integrity is the new buzzword in democratic debate – but what does it mean, and why does it matter?

That will be the topic of a free public forum in Hobart tomorrow night organised by the UTAS School of Philosophy entitled “The Denison Debate: Integrity in Public Life”.

Director of the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Ethics in the School of Philosophy Natasha Cica said the discussion is timely as the dust settles on the 2010 State election.

“There is ongoing debate about values in public life and this discussion comes as Tasmania awaits the operation of our new Integrity Commission,” Dr Cica said.

The forum will feature Cassy O’Connor MP, Secretary to Cabinet; Greens Spokesperson for the Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts and Animal Welfare; Matthew Groom MP, Shadow Minister for Environment, Parks & Heritage, Climate Change, and Sustainable Transport & Alternative Energy; and Madeleine Ogilvie, Barrister and member of the ALP in conversation with Dr Cica.

“One of the aims is to ask those involved in the forum how they define integrity and what it means in public life,” Dr Cica said.

“But it is equally important to stress that the audience is a key part of this debate. We encourage people to come along and have their say about what kind of values they want to see in action in our democracy.”

“Questions about ethics engage everyone operating in a political and media landscape that has changed dramatically over the past two decades.”

The forum is being presented by the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Ethics in the UTAS School of Philosophy. It will be held from 6pm on Tuesday 25 May 2010 at the Centenary Lecture Theatre, at the University of Tasmania Sandy Bay campus.

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