

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Wednesday, 27 July 2016

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## Professional pathways: students get hands-on with health through expert education

High school students will gain interactive and informative insight from local health professionals this week when they visit the Mersey Community Hospital to explore a diverse number of health careers.

The Year 9 Health Careers Education Workshop is a one-day learning opportunity facilitated by the University of Tasmania's Rural Clinical School in partnership with the Tasmanian Health Service, allowing students to experience a 'day in the life' of their chosen health profession.

Staff and students from the Rural Clinical School alongside local health workers will present sessions focused on medicine, pharmacy, nursing, pathology, occupational therapy, psychology, radiography, oral health, social work, nutrition and dietetics, physiotherapy, social work, podiatry, paramedicine and environmental health.

Rural Clinical School Co-Director Dr Lizzi Shires said the workshop would provide the region's young people with an invaluable opportunity to learn about various health careers.

"This interactive workshop allows Year 9 students who are interested in health to find out more about the careers that are available. Allied health experts lead a series of sessions imparting practical knowledge, skills and guidance about what it is really like to be working in this important sector, in an environment that is fun and informative," Dr Shires said.

Students will try their hand at administering a dental filling, create creams, take blood pressure, facilitate life support, learn how x-ray machines are used, experience the scrub, glove and gown routine in a theatre scenario, while learning how to bandage and apply dressings to wounds.

Activities will also introduce students to maintaining hand hygiene, assessing a patient's nutrition and diet, performing speech pathology, testing wheelchairs and wearing specialty glasses simulating cataracts as part of occupational therapy and they will also learn how paramedics perform first aid.

“The day is also about showing pathways. Presenters will share their own professional journeys of enrolling in higher education and training to reach their chosen careers, in Year 9 many students are wondering how to follow certain career pathways and we find this workshop is often a starting point for some of them,” Dr Shires said.

A second *Year 9 Health Careers Education Workshop* will be held at the Rural Clinical School in Burnie on **Wednesday, 24 August**.

**PHOTO/FILMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDIA:**

**What:** Interactive Health Workshops for Year 9 students

**When:** Friday, 29 July, 9.15 – 2.15pm

**Where:** Rural Clinical School Mersey campus, Mersey Community Hospital, Latrobe

**For more information contact: Dr Lizzi Shires 0487 173 709**

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