

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2011

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Focus on Mental Health Diversion List at workshop

The Tasmania Mental Health Diversion List (MHDL) will be the focus of a workshop tomorrow (**Friday 8 April 2011**) at the University of Tasmania.

The workshop *Integration and Collaboration: Building capacity and engagement for the provision of criminal justice services to Tasmania's mentally ill* is organised by UTAS' Tasmanian Institute for Law Enforcement Studies (TILES).

It will bring together the court, police, mental health services including Forensic Mental Health Services, community agencies and legal aid, law firms, police prosecutors and other relevant stakeholders.

Topics will include:

- Research on the diversion process
- Referral processes
- Expectations of communities, victims, minority communities and complainants
- Issues relating to policing, impact evaluation and resource allocation

Director of TILES, Professor Jenny Fleming, said highlights of the workshop included talks by Sue King, (Manager Specialist Courts and Intervention Programs, Adelaide), Michael Hill, (Chief Magistrate, Magistrates Court Hobart) and John Lesser (Magistrate, Melbourne Magistrates Court).

“The workshop is built around presentations and discussions by researchers and practitioners working on the key issues that define the provision of criminal justice services to mentally ill offenders.

“We will aim to examine how related and relevant agencies can work together and how TILES can collaborate and assist in improving research, awareness and understanding of the MHDL.”

Prof Fleming said it is also an opportunity to engage in discussions about the future direction of the MHDL and the possibility of extending it to young offenders.

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