

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



First aged care learning centre in Tasmania opened

Tasmania's first aged care learning centre has been opened and researchers, health professionals, students and the community will all benefit.

The Moonyah Aged Care Learning Centre at Masonic Homes in the state's North was opened by Senator Lisa Singh.

It was funded with \$359,345 from Health Workforce Australia goods and services and capital works project funding, with Masonic Homes providing the building which was re-modelled into the Centre.

Moonyah includes a training room with video conferencing and audio-visual facilities, a computer lab, a student lounge and kitchen and two fully equipped offices to house four staff.

The Centre will be used by the 70 – 80 nursing, medical and paramedic students each year undertaking placements at Masonic Homes.

It will also provide a resource for staff employed at Masonic Homes to support their professional development, particularly the staff who mentor students on placement.

The Centre is the first UTAS campus co-located at an aged care facility.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, welcomed the opening of Moonyah.

“UTAS’ cutting-edge translational research and education is vital to the health of our state’s ageing population, and this Centre represents a developing partnership between the University and the aged care sector.

“Our medical, paramedic and nursing students undertaking their practical placements at Moonyah will benefit immensely from the centre’s facilities, assisting our mission to graduate skilled, well-rounded health professionals from UTAS,” Prof Rathjen said.

“It is also pleasing that as the first such aged care learning centre in Tasmania, Moonyah will also be utilised by the wider aged care industry in Launceston, to support the professional development and engagement of aged care staff.”

UTAS' Professor Andrew Robinson, Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre co-director, said the Centre will also be used by UTAS staff engaged in developing an aged care research program as well as Launceston based students enrolled in the new UTAS Wicking Associate Degree in Dementia Care.

"The centre represents a very important first step in acknowledgement of the increasingly important role that the residential aged care sector plays in health care provision, by educating students and supporting staff," Prof Robinson said.

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