

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY 8 AUGUST 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



\$3.5 million education plan to provide pathways to success

An ambitious University of Tasmania plan to increase participation in higher education - in a state where just 14 per cent of the workforce holds a tertiary-level qualification - has been awarded \$2.4 million in Federal Government funding.

The Minister for Higher Education, Kim Carr, announced that the University of Tasmania project, *Pathways to Success and A Place in Tasmania's Future Economy*, would be supported as part of the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program.

The project, worth \$3.5 million over two and a half years, will create 13 new full and part-time jobs.

It will focus on Tasmanians from a low SES background and those who identify as Aboriginal in four areas of the State:

- the West and North-West;
- Launceston and the North East;
- the northern suburbs of Hobart; and
- the Huon/Bruny Island.

These areas are collectively home to more than 83% of Tasmania's low SES population and 87 per cent of its Aboriginal population.

"The aim of this project is to increase participation in higher education through initiatives and pathways which build aspiration, provide smooth transitions from secondary education and TAFE and enable students, families and communities to engage with career possibilities in Tasmania's industries of the future: food, advanced manufacturing, tourism and health," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education), Professor David Sadler, said today (**Thursday 8 August 2013**).

"Tasmania needs skilled professionals for advanced manufacturing, food and tourism industries that will drive its future economy. It must also provide more health professionals for an ageing population and the above-average burden of chronic disease.

"Yet undervaluing of higher education is deeply entrenched here."

Nearly 43 per cent of Tasmania's population lives in low SES areas. Aboriginal people represent nearly 4% of Tasmania's population but only 1.25% of University enrolments in 2011.

The *Pathways to Success* initiatives are grouped into three subprograms:

- ***What's After High School*** –informing and building aspiration beyond high school by introducing students, families, communities and teachers to university and the industries that will provide future jobs. This will involve extending the current *UniLink* coordinator trial on the Cradle Coast to other regions and Aboriginal communities;
- ***Look in at Jobs*** –familiarising students, families, and communities with future jobs. This will be facilitated by Industry Liaison Officers.
- ***Skills for Professionals*** – exposing articulated pathways, enabling supported transitions from secondary college and TasTAFE, to University or university preparation programs. A particular emphasis will be placed on the value of education to Aboriginal communities, working age adults and employers.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students), Professor Sue Kilpatrick said: "*Pathways to Success* has been designed to align with the University's Social Inclusion Plan, the Tasmanian Economic Development Plan and the objectives of the Educational Attainment Working Group established by the University and the State Government as part of the current partnership agreement.

"The University will be the lead partner, via its Centre for Pathways and Partnerships – which includes Riawunna, UTAS' Aboriginal support unit - but students and teachers from high schools and senior secondary colleges, and from TasTAFE, will also be active participants.

"We will also work with the four Aboriginal corporations, the Smith Family, the Guildford Young and St James Catholic colleges and the Burnie City Council to ensure that all Tasmanians have the opportunity to participate in a future skilled economy."

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