

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday 22 June 2015

Have your say on literacy and numeracy

Common assumptions about numeracy and literacy will be scrutinised at a public symposium to be held at the University of Tasmania's Cradle Coast Campus tomorrow (**Tuesday 23 June**) at 4pm.

The event, titled "Education Provocations: What does it mean to be literate and numerate in the 21st Century?" aims to encourage robust discussion and debate on the future directions of education.

Four of the University's key education researchers will act as provocateurs, attempting to unsettle a number of common assumptions about literacy and numeracy with some surprising findings from their current research.

Dr Damon Thomas will shed light on the pros and cons of NAPLAN testing; Drs Jill Wills and Tracey Muir will highlight the importance of numeracy and how it is taught; Dr Angela Thomas questions the impact of traditional fairy tales and myths on the beliefs and aspirations of young girls.

Associate Dean with the Faculty of Education, Sharon Thomas, said that teachers, parents and carers are invited to share their views at the symposium, and participate in a conversation that is important to the future shape of education in Australia.

"Education impacts heavily on the future of individuals and the nation," Dr Thomas said.

"By engaging a wide audience in discussions that reflect on and challenge current norms in educational beliefs, we can help to clarify the best way forward in our schools and educational institutions."

The event is free but registration is essential as places are limited.

<http://www.utas.edu.au/education/calendar/events/2015/june/education-provocations-what-does-it-mean-to-be-literate-and-numerate-in-the-21st-century>

What: "Education Provocations: What does it mean to be literate and numerate in the 21st Century?"

When: Tuesday June 23, 4 pm – 5.45 pm

Where: University of Tasmania Cradle Coast Campus, Mooreville Road, Burnie

For more information, contact: Liz.Breen@utas.edu.au

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: 61 3 6430 4966

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au