

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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## Tasmania's Premier in conversation – Do women leaders make a difference?

In 2011, Australia's Prime Minister and Governor-General are women – and now so is the Premier of Tasmania.

Just ten years ago, this 'state of the state' was unimaginable. But how much difference does it really make to have women in top jobs – in government, business and other sectors?

'Do Women Leaders Make A Difference?' is the topic of the first Denison Debate of 2011, presented by the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society at UTAS to be held **tonight**.

"More women in our society seem to be gaining public positions matching their talents and qualifications – and that's clearly long overdue, especially in Tasmania," said Dr Natasha Cica, Director of the Inglis Clark Centre.

"It also raises some interesting questions. Do women wield power differently from men? If women become leaders, are the rest of us truly comfortable as 'followers'? Are women still more likely to be judged on appearance rather than substance?"

The Denison Debate will feature Dr Cica in conversation with four guest speakers – all women who have attained senior leadership roles:

- **Hon Lara Giddings MP**, Premier and Treasurer of Tasmania;
- **Ms Narelle Hooper**, Editor of the *Australian Financial Review* BOSS magazine;
- **Hon Vanessa Goodwin MLC**, Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Minister for Justice and Corrections; and
- **Professor Susan Dodds**, Dean of the UTAS Faculty of Arts.

The Denison Debate will be held on Monday 7 February from 6pm in the Dechaineaux Lecture Theatre, Tasmanian School of Art, Hunter Street.

Entry to the debate is free and all are welcome to attend.

The Denison Debate is a series of events hosted by the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society at UTAS. The series aims to provide a forum for more open and vibrant Tasmanian conversations about ideas and values in our society.

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