

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2008

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS School of Medicine receives full marks in accreditation

The UTAS School of Medicine's new medical course has been accredited until December 2012.

This is the longest accreditation period the Australian Medical Council is able to award, and according to the Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Professor Allan Carmichael, puts to rest any concerns raised in the 1990s about the viability of the school's future.

Under the new medical curriculum, more students complete their studies in five years instead of six, the curriculum is more practical, and patient contact starts in the first year of the course instead of the third.

"Case-based learning allows the integration of clinical practice and theory, which facilitates strong community focus, communication and collaboration," said Prof. Carmichael.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery was accredited in 2006 to deliver the Bachelor of Nursing for five years with a new contemporary curriculum that has a similar community and primary health care focus.

The curriculum has a strong clinical focus with students gaining extensive practical experience in community, mental health and acute care settings.

While the Bachelor of Nursing is traditionally offered as a three-year program, a two-year "fast track" option has been developed in response to a growing shortage of nurses and student demands for greater course flexibility to allow them to accelerate

their learning by utilising a third semester summer school. The two-year degree has been offered in Launceston and NSW and expanded to Hobart this year.

In addition, the School of Nursing and Midwifery has introduced new postgraduate speciality nursing programs developed in collaboration with health care agencies in Tasmania and Sydney's South West Area Health Service.

“Over the past decade, the health system has strained under the pressure of shortages of health professionals, particularly medical practitioners and nurses,” Prof. Carmichael said.

“These innovations and initiatives allow the Faculty of Health Science to meet current and future workforce needs and Tasmania's health needs.”

- Professor Carmichael is available for media comment from **11am-11.45am** today (Wednesday). To arrange interviews, contact: Gaye Clark, Faculty of Health Science, 6226 4738 or 0400 818 173.

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania
Phone: 6226 2124 or 6324 3218 (Launceston)
Mobile: 0417 517 291
Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au