

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Family lunch for Med students this weekend

UTAS School of Medicine students will share lunch this Saturday with the families who help them gain valuable knowledge about childhood health.

The School of Medicine's Kids and Families Program provides important training to medical students studying to become doctors.

The program acquaints students with the processes of normal childhood by introducing them to a family expecting a baby, to follow the progress of the new-born child over a two year period.

This program introduces the medical students to their first long-term professional relationship, emphasising normality and the importance of the "whole person" rather than concentrating upon disease.

Program coordinator, Dr Marianne Catchpole, said the Kids and Families Program is an important part of the medical course, with students greatly benefiting from the parents' experiences.

"The program provides a real-life opportunity for students before they are able to have direct contact with people who are ill.

"During visits with the families, students are taught concepts of preventative health, ranges of normal behaviour, and the special relationships and responsibilities that a doctor develops with their patients," she said.

"Students also gain a good understanding of child development, family health care issues and what is associated with a normal childhood as an essential element of effective care for children."

For more information about the Kids and Families Program, please visit:

www.utas.edu.au/medicine/kids-and-families

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