

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 15 AUGUST 2007

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Tasmanian professor awarded national \$10,000 numeracy prize

UTAS Professor Jane Watson has won one of five National Literacy and Numeracy Week awards presented today in Canberra by the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop.

The \$10,000 cash award recognises outstanding contributions to numeracy or literacy.

Prof. Watson, who is Hobart-based, is an internationally-recognised leader in the field of statistics education in primary and secondary schools and has profoundly influenced mathematics education at the local, national, and international levels. Her work has had an impact on curriculum development in Tasmania and nationally for the past 20 years.

Prof. Watson is overseas and was unable to attend the ceremony, but said it was an honour to be recognised nationally for many years of research and work with students and teachers in various areas of mathematics education and numeracy.

“This is especially true since overall more awards are given in literacy, and I believe it’s important to increase the profile of numeracy nationally whenever possible,” she said.

“The award is also important for Tasmania because much of my work has been done in collaboration with the State Department of Education. I hope the Department and the Minister for Education realise the work we do together needs to continue in order to improve numeracy outcomes for Tasmanian students.”

Prof. Watson took the opportunity to call for continued collaboration between the University and the Department of Education on valuable professional development projects.

Prof. Watson said the award gave her the opportunity to do further research into students' and teachers' understanding of mathematics and statistics. The \$10,000 prize will be used to support a new project involving the employment of an early career researcher.

* Note: Unfortunately Professor Watson is overseas and unavailable for comment, but a photograph is attached for media use.

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: 63243218 Mobile: 0438 623977

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au