

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Volunteers needed for alcohol and energy drink research**

Researchers in the UTAS School of Psychology are seeking volunteers for a study investigating the effect of alcohol and energy drinks on performance.

Researcher Amy Peacock said volunteers will attend five hours of familiarisation and experimental sessions at the UTAS Sandy Bay campus.

“Participants will drink a maximum of three 250mL energy drinks and/or a maximum of six standard alcoholic drinks,” she said.

“Then they will complete various tasks, their blood alcohol concentration, heart rate and blood pressure will be monitored and their mood assessed.”

This research follows on UTAS research published in 2012 showing Australians mixing alcohol and energy drinks reported greater odds of stimulation side-effects (heart palpitations, sleeping difficulties) compared with drinking alcohol only.

The aim of the current study is to determine the dose-dependent impact of energy drinks and alcohol ingested independently, and in combination, on:

- Objective measures of cognitive and motor performance, physiology (e.g., heart rate), and behavioural risk-taking;
- Subjective measures of intoxication.

Participants will be reimbursed \$160 at the conclusion of the sessions and a maximum of \$20 per experimental session for task performance. Volunteers for the study should be aged 20-35, have English as a first language and have completed Year 12.

**To register interest in the study, please email [energydrinkstudy@gmail.com](mailto:energydrinkstudy@gmail.com) or visit <https://surveys.psychol.utas.edu.au/index> and click on the alcohol study.**

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