

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Passionate advocates of rural training appointed as Interim Co-Directors of RCS

Associate Professors Lizzi Shires and Debbie Wilson have been appointed Interim Co-Directors of the Rural Clinical School (RCS) at Burnie. The duo will replace Professor Skinner who is leaving to become the Director of the Psychological and Clinical Sciences School at Charles Darwin University.

The Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Professor Denise Fassett, said today that Dr Shires and Dr Wilson had worked for many years on the North West Coast and have in-depth knowledge and experience of rural health. "They are both passionate advocates of rural training, consistently working with medical students and medical practitioners to ensure that our future workforce is well-trained and keen to return to rural areas."

Assoc Prof Debbie Wilson has been a Consultant Anaesthetist at the North West Regional Hospital since 1998. Assoc Prof Wilson has worked with the RCS since 2007 and has been an Associate Head for the last year. "She has played an integral role in developing specialist training on the North West Coast and is a member of the Governing Council for Tasmanian Health Organisation/North West," Prof Fassett said.

Associate Professor Lizzi Shires has been a local GP for nearly a decade. She is also a specialist in public health and has worked as Associate Head at the RCS for the last three years. "She has experience as Co-Director at the RCS in 2012 and is looking forward to working in this position again."

Assoc Prof Shires has worked in England for many years as an Associate Dean and Associate Director in the London and Cambridge Deaneries co-ordinating postgraduate training in general practice.

"We look forward to working closely with Dr Shires and Dr Wilson to ensure a smooth transition for the RCS," Prof Fassett said.

The University intends to commence the process for recruiting an ongoing Director as soon as possible.

During his time at UTAS, Prof Skinner has built on the success of the RCS and provided research leadership in the North West region. "Prof Skinner's last day will be 8 May, and the University wishes him every success in his new role" Prof Fassett said.

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