

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Top of the class: UTAS expert appointed to Federal review of teacher training

The University of Tasmania's status as a centre of excellence in teaching and learning has been underscored with the appointment of a key Faculty of Education staff member to a Federal Government review of teacher training.

Kim Beswick, a Professor in Mathematics Education and Associate Dean (Research) based at the University's Newnham campus, is one of eight members of the newly established Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group. The panel will provide the Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, with "advice, based on research and consultation, on how teacher education programs could be improved so that new teacher graduates have the right mix of academic and practical classroom skills".

A former secondary-school teacher, Professor Beswick has published more than 80 books and is currently President of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers. Her tertiary teaching expertise has been recognised by a UTAS Teaching Excellence Award in 2006 and, in 2008 an Australian Learning and Teaching Council citation for outstanding contributions to student learning.

The Faculty of Education's mathematics education team, under her leadership, received a UTAS Teaching Excellence Award in 2011 and a national Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) Award for Teaching Excellence in 2012.

Her current research includes Australian Research Council-funded projects on teachers' knowledge for teaching mathematics and English, and the retention of rural, regional and disadvantaged students in education beyond Year 10; and an OLT-funded project aimed at developing mathematics pathways for VET students moving into university courses.

The Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group will be chaired by Professor Greg Craven, Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University.

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