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HEALTH SERVICES
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Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Hundreds to attend opening of milestone health conference

Around 300 delegates from Tasmania, mainland states and a range of overseas countries will attend tomorrow's opening of the Sustainable Healthcare Transformation conference in Hobart.

The international conference on health system innovation runs 18-20 March 2015, and features a high-profile array of health professionals, experts in health and community services, consumer advocates and executives with innovative management success.

It will be officially opened at 1.30pm by University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen and the Tasmanian Minister for Health, the Hon. Michael Ferguson.

They will be followed by keynote speaker Sir Robert Naylor, Chief Executive of University College London Hospitals, knighted for his services to UK health care.

Other leading speakers are Associate Professor Kal Pasupathy from the USA's Mayo Clinic, Ray Mostogl, General Manager Operations for Bell Bay Aluminium, and Professor Andrew Pettigrew OBE from the Said Business School, University of Oxford.

A key focus will be on the Clinical Redesign process, supported by the Australian Government and aimed at improving the performance of the Tasmanian health care system. The rollout of this program is being managed by the University of Tasmania's Health Services Innovation Tasmania (HSI Tas), the conference host.

HSI Tas Co-Director Associate Professor Craig Quarmby said, “The Sustainable Healthcare Transformation conference comes at a milestone time for the health system in Tasmania and Australia more generally.

“Health care is facing unprecedented challenges because of ageing populations and the mounting burden of chronic disease. At the same time, costs continue to rise, while governments face significant budgetary constraints.

“Doing things better through innovation is a key principle, and Clinical Redesign is recognised as the most innovative way of enhancing the performance of emergency department flow and hospital bed utilisation, and the interface with primary care providers.

“It’s a coup for Tasmania to attract some of the most innovative thinkers from the health care field as well as manufacturing industry. Sharing experiences will be of tremendous benefit for the improvement of health care in our state and further afield.”

The conference coincides with the University of Tasmania’s 125th Anniversary.

Sustainable Healthcare Transformation is at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart from 18-20 March 2015. Program details at <http://www.healthcaretransformation.com.au/>

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