

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Full delivery of Education degree program launched at campus

In a major announcement today UTAS Bachelor of Education students at the Cradle Coast campus will be able to finish the degree in the North –West from 2008.

Until now, only Years 1 and 2 of the primary teaching degree have been offered at the Burnie-based campus, with students having to travel to Launceston to complete the degree.

However, the growing numbers in enrolments, combined with the campus' largest-ever building expansion, has paved the way for the full delivery of the program.

“This is a momentous chapter in the campus' history, where through supportive partnerships, it has continued to increase its course offerings,” UTAS Cradle Coast campus Director and Dean of Education Megan Cavanagh-Russell said.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Provost of the University of Tasmania, Professor David Rich, and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) Professor Gail Hart officially launched the addition of Years 3 and 4 during a special ceremony at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus today.

Ms Cavanagh-Russell said while adult learners have traditionally formed a large part of the student cohort, many students have faced difficulties in relocating or travelling to Launceston to study.

“Students may have families to consider, or other commitments, and might not be free to undertake study away from the region without a significant sacrifice,” she said.

“The University has always looked at ways in which to better serve its community.”

She said now, with the support of the Faculty of Education and the Department of Education, students will be able to complete the degree on the Coast.

Ms Cavanagh-Russell said the degree at the campus would be developed with a distinctive delivery model and focus.

“We will be linking it closely with the schools and teachers and we will be preparing students with a specialisation in the area of regional and rural schools,” she said.

“This means that the program may even attract students from other places than just the Cradle Coast.

“While the course will have a distinctive flavour and delivery model, it is the same course which is available in Launceston and will offer all of the equivalent employment opportunities.”

Ms Cavanagh-Russell said while graduates often pursue employment in the classroom, the degree can lead to a number of other career opportunities including child care, organisational and leadership positions and communication-based careers, including industry and commercial training and sales.

The degree was one of the first courses to be offered by the UTAS Cradle Coast campus when it opened in 1996.

Since then, Years 1 and 2 have been expanded to serve growing enrolments, where adult learners have typically formed a large majority of the student group.

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