

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



First-year medical students “going bush”

As part of a long-term strategy to address the rural health workforce shortage around Australia, first-year medical students from the University of Tasmania are being given an early taste of life in a country practice.

Dozens of students will travel to rural practices tomorrow (Tuesday 11 September) and Thursday (13 September) in a program designed by health practitioners and academics as part of Rural Week, which runs from 10 -14 September.

The program aims to provide medical students with an early introduction to rural medicine so that, as doctors, they are more likely to consider a career in rural practice.

For the students, it will be a chance to try out the basic patient communication skills which they have been confined to classroom-based teaching until now.

Rural Week leader and UTAS GP academic, Assoc Prof Jan Radford, says delivery of the program will be a collaborative effort between the Campbell Town, Oatlands and Swansea health communities and the University’s School of Medicine and Rural Clinical School.

“These changes in medical education can only be positive in terms of how our students view rural practice, and ultimately in addressing the rural health workforce shortages currently experienced around much of Australia,” Assoc Prof Radford said.

What:

Tuesday, 11 September: 40 first-year students will travel to Campbell Town and 22 to Swansea.

Thursday, 13 September: 42 first-year students will travel to Oatlands and 20 to Swansea.

Where:

Campbell Town Health and Community Service, 11am – 3pm, (Tues, Sept 11)

Midlands Multi-purpose Health Centre at Oatlands, 11am – 3pm, (Thurs, Sept 13)

May Shaw Health Centre, Swansea, 11am – 3pm (11 and 13 Sept)

For more information, please contact:

Assoc Prof Jan Radford, UTAS GP academic and Rural Week leader.

M: 0419 885 285

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6226 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au