

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Community wins with \$1 million health science precinct

A project to coordinate health research, education and practice will play a key role in improving health services for the Tasmanian community.

With initial funding of \$1 million from the Federal Government, the University of Tasmania will establish an Academic Health Science Precinct to coordinate the work of health researchers, educators, administrators and practitioners.

Project leader University Professor James Vickers said the precinct will ensure medical research discoveries can benefit hospital and community patients as quickly and efficiently as possible.

“Known as the *virtual* Tasmanian Academic Health Science Precinct (vTAHSP), this initiative brings together traditionally independent medical research organisations, the university and health care providers,” Professor Vickers said.

“Together, we can deliver greater community benefits than would be possible if the individual organisations acted separately.”

The precinct comprises the Department of Health and Human Services, the three Tasmanian Health Organisations, Tasmanian Medicare Local, the University of Tasmania’s Faculty of Health and the Menzies Research Institute of Tasmania.

It will also establish key networks with a range of organisations throughout the State with a focus on evidence-based improvement of health outcomes.

“We aim to build and encourage networks through research activities, support research that focuses on the major health problems facing Tasmanians and promote research and workforce development that delivers direct health improvements across the State,” Professor Vickers said.

“Many successful precincts are operating in other states and overseas, delivering major gains for their communities. The Tasmanian project is the only one to have

received Commonwealth funding, recognising the capacity for better health outcomes through the cooperation of our major health partners.

“The precinct is expected to be fully operational by the end of August and will support research projects that demonstrate the value that a health science precinct approach can deliver.”

The precinct aims to be self-sustaining after the Commonwealth funding period is complete.

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