

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## University saddened by death of strong education advocate

The University of Tasmania today paid tribute to the Honourable Sue Napier, a former colleague and a strong support of the University.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said Mrs Napier showed great commitment to a strong University presence in the three regions of the State and to the Launceston campus in particular.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor David Rich also said Mrs Napier will be greatly missed by her former colleagues and those who knew her during her successful State political career.

Mrs Napier worked for the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education, which became the Tasmanian Institute of Technology and later the University of Tasmania, for 20 years from January 1972.

She had a long and active association with the Faculty of Education, and she was a highly respected lecturer in physical education.

The current Dean of Education, Professor Ian Hay, said that Mrs Napier was a highly respected lecturer in physical education and as a politician she was a strong supporter of the University, the faculty of Education and the pre-service education program.

“While my association with Sue was limited to the last the last two years, we met on a number of occasions to discuss educational issues particularly as they pertained to new courses, the Faculty was developing and how they were linked to the needs of students and their families.”

Mrs Napier was originally appointed as senior tutor/demonstrator in physical education in the school of education and general studies at the Mount Nelson campus of the TCAE.

She was promoted to the position of lecturer in March 1976 and in January 1979 transferred to the Division of Teacher Education at Newnham campus. She resigned in February 1992 when elected to the House of Assembly.

The Head of Education at the time, Professor Bill Mulford, said he remembered her as a dynamic person

“She felt strongly about disadvantaged student and worked hard on their behalf,” he said

“She was never shy of debating education issues and was an excellent staff member.”

The former Principal of the TCAE, Coleman O’Flaherty, said he had known Mrs Napier for 36 years

“She was a dedicated physical education teacher and a fine Minister of Education in her day,” he said.

“She was an inspiration to her students and a strong family person.”

Mrs Napier is an alumna of the University and she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975, followed by Honours in 1978. She was also a strong supporter of the University’s Alumni group.

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