

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Teddy bear health checks coming to Brighton

Brighton teddies will get a full physical this week as University of Tasmania Medical students hold a Teddy Bear Hospital at Brighton Primary School tomorrow.

The Medicine students will act as “Teddy Doctors” and take kindergarten children and their bears through a range of different activity stations, each simulating different health care scenarios.

These include Teddy Waiting Room, Teddy Emergency, Teddy GP and Healthy Teddy. Each station includes activities such as how to call the ambulance, looking in teddy's ears, immunising teddy and keeping still for x-rays.

The Teddy Bear Hospital aims to reduce any anxiety children may have about doctors and health care through non-threatening, fun role plays, and at the same time promote the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

The Med student Teddy Doctors also benefit from interaction with well children and gain a better understanding of the role of doctors from a child's perspective.

The University's Teddy Bear Hospital program was started in 2013 by senior Medical students Angie Gates, Jess Paine and Nicole Choroszy under the guidance of University academic Dr Judi Errey.

The concept was founded by the International Federation of Medical Students Associations and the University's version is modelled on existing programs run by a number of universities in Australia and overseas.

"We see the Teddy Bear Hospital as an extremely valuable program that has positive benefits for our Medical students and the children they are working with," said Dr Errey.

Due to positive feedback from primary schools and the support of the University's Faculty of Health School of Medicine, the Teddy Bear Hospital has expanded to include a Teddy Hand-Washing Station and a station dedicated to promoting healthy eating.

Information released by:

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