

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday, 8 February 2016

Medical students test emergency response skills in Queenstown

Medical students from the University of Tasmania's Rural Clinical School will respond to "multiple casualties" on the West Coast this week when they take part in two emergency scenario exercises.

Taking place in Queenstown on **Thursday, 11 February**, the simulated events will give the 25 students an opportunity to exercise their medical knowledge and skills alongside experts in emergency procedures and response.

Emergency services from across the North West region, local doctors and staff from the West Coast District Hospital will participate in the full-scale, time critical, multi-casualty scenarios, which will also be used by personnel as a training opportunity and a timely occasion to review management protocols.

Co-Director of the Rural Clinical School, Associate Professor Deb Wilson, said the simulated exercises will allow students to put some of their skills in emergency medicine in to practice.

"Emergency response exercises allow students to work and train with the emergency services outside the hospital," Associate Professor Wilson said.

"First-hand knowledge and training in disaster management is crucial to their education, particularly if they choose to practice in a rural or remote area."

Disaster Scenario Medical Lead, Dr Thiru Thirukkumaran said the learning opportunity had been made possible through a strong partnership existing between the Rural Clinical School, the West Coast Council, local medical staff, SES crews, as well as the Tasmanian Police, Ambulance and Fire Services.

"This ongoing support ensures students from the Rural Clinical School continue to get the best possible training experiences before becoming fully qualified professionals," Dr Thirukkumaran said.

“The high level of support by Tasmania’s emergency services teaches the students the skills that allow them to work efficiently and confidently in managing patient trauma amid a critical response situation, especially in isolated communities.”

The scenarios will wrap up a three-day Emergency Skills Course for the students, who will also attend a series of theoretical seminars at the University of Tasmania Rural Clinical School on Wednesday February 10.

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: 6430 4966

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au