

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Medical graduates take up local internships

Tasmanian medical students are staying local for their post-graduation hospital internships in 2016.

Eleven of the 12 hospital internships offered in the North West this year will be filled by University of Tasmania graduates, eight of whom completed their medical degrees at the Rural Clinical School in Burnie.

Dr Annette Pantle, Executive Director of Services for the North West Region Tasmanian Health Service, said that she is delighted that locally trained students are keen to get started in their career in the North West.

“It is great for us to maintain our talented young medicos in regional areas, and bodes well for Tasmania and Australia’s rural medical workforce into the future,” Dr Pantle said.

The new interns have been completing their orientation at the Rural Clinical School in Burnie this week in preparation for commencement of ward and department based duties next week.

An event being held today (January 7) at the Rural Clinical School will welcome the new interns and recognise the achievements of the 2015 medical interns.

The Tasmanian Health Service will announce the winner of the prestigious Paul Huang Intern of the Year Award recognising the top North West intern for 2015. This award is presented in honour of Dr Paul Huang, who was a radiologist at the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) for many years until his retirement in the early 1990s.

The R. E. Buttfield Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Award will also be awarded to this year’s top-performing doctors from both the NWRH and the Mersey Community Hospital. This award recognises the work of Dr Richard Buttfield, who was a former Director of Medical Services at NWRH and the Chief Executive Officer of the North West Health Region in the early 1990s.

Dr Pantle said that the awards provide a great opportunity for all staff of the Tasmanian Health Service who have worked with interns and Registered Medical Officers to nominate those who have demonstrated excellence in Clinical Management, Professionalism and Communication.

“The Awards are not a popularity contest. They are about recognising doctors in training who have worked hard, know how to be team players and are respectful and inclusive in their

communications. These doctors are role models for others and should inspire those around them," Dr Pantle said.

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