

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Legal recognition of relationships in Tasmania beyond marriage**

Public forums are being held across Tasmania to share information about Tasmanian law in relation to personal relationships.

*Beyond Marriage: Opposite Sex – Same Sex – No Sex* is a free public forum being held in Hobart tomorrow night (Tuesday 30 November 2010). The forum will be held in Launceston and Burnie in early December.

The forums explain how people can protect and recognise their personal relationships, and that people may have rights of which they are unaware.

The forums have been organised by Dr Olivia Rundle from the UTAS Faculty of Law in partnership with Rodney Croome of the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group.

Dr Rundle says Tasmania's laws about personal relationships have changed significantly in recent years.

"Tasmanian law recognises and protects a wide variety of personal relationships, including significant (marriage-like) and caring (non marriage-like) relationships," Dr Rundle said.

"Potentially anyone in a personal relationship is affected by these laws. People know who is most important to them and that their relationship matters to them. But what people may not know is whether it matters in the law."

The forums are proudly supported by the University of Tasmania's Community Engagement Grant Scheme and are for anyone who:

- Has a companion;
- Shares their life with another adult who is significant to them;
- Cares for someone without financial reward;
- Is in a same sex or de facto relationship;
- Has decided not to re-marry but has re-partnered.

More information about the project and personal relationship recognition in Tasmania can be found by visiting: [www.law.utas.edu.au/beyondmarriage](http://www.law.utas.edu.au/beyondmarriage)

People interested in providing their feedback or stories can email: [beyond.marriage@utas.edu.au](mailto:beyond.marriage@utas.edu.au)

***Beyond Marriage Public Forums Details:***

**Hobart**

**When:** 6.00-7.30pm on Tuesday 30 November 2010

**Where:** Flexible Learning Space, University Centre, UTAS Sandy Bay campus, Hobart

**Launceston**

**When:** 6.00-7.30pm on Tuesday 7 December 2010

**Where:** Flexible Learning Space, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, UTAS Newnham campus, Launceston

**Burnie**

**When:** 6.00-7.30pm on Wednesday 8 December 2010

**Where:** Room D201, Main Building, UTAS Cradle Coast campus, Burnie