

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Innovation Hubs to turn ideas into reality

A new network of enterprise hubs across Tasmania will provide the space and support needed to turn innovative ideas into business reality.

The University of Tasmania joined other partners today in formally opening Enterprize Tasmania, a new initiative to build a network of innovation and enterprise hubs across the State.

The first two hubs in Hobart and Launceston have been established through a novel public private partnership with the State Government, the University and a range of private sector sponsors and special interest groups such as Start UP Tasmania.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Brigid Heywood said the collaboration was one element of a wider plan to build capacity across Tasmania for enterprises initiatives.

“The promotion and capture of innovation practices, and the growth of an entrepreneurial culture, are key dynamics in the development of a knowledge-led economy,” Professor Heywood said.

“Tasmania is known for being creative and supporting the growth of small businesses – this new program will shift the gears and enable a more integrated model to be established.”

The University is focusing much of its effort around support for graduate enterprise and will link its student hatchery to the new innovation hubs, as well as co-hosting a number of networking and pitching events aimed at fostering student engagement in entrepreneurship.

“We know from looking at places similar to Tasmania that the much reported ‘big city’ models of innovation will not work as effectively,” Professor Heywood said.

“We must build our own fit-for-purpose innovation ecosystem and the new Hubs are an exciting part of that process.”

**Information released by:**

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