

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Tasmanian teacher graduates to benefit from agreement with WA**

Pre-service teachers and graduates from the University of Tasmania will gain improved internship and job opportunities from an agreement signed today (Tuesday) by the University and the WA Education Department.

The collaboration agreement will see the university's Education faculty working closely with Western Australia to ensure that interested students have:

- access to elective units to prepare them for work in rural and isolated settings;
- internship places in WA schools in the final year of their Education degree;
- employment opportunities in WA schools beginning immediately after they complete university study.

The acting Vice Chancellor, Professor David Rich, said the agreement had been developed over several months and would provide new opportunities for Tasmanian students to experience teaching in different settings.

“We have a strong interest in the future careers of our students that extends beyond the point of graduation and we take this very seriously,” he said.

“For this reason we support the opportunities and the valuable experiences that interstate work placement can give our graduates.

“This collaborative agreement highlights the quality of our programs in the Faculty of Education and the esteem in which they are held.”

“The university is committed to partnerships that benefit both staff and students; this agreement will contribute to a high quality student experience at UTAS and richly rewarding employment and career opportunities for our graduates.”

Tasmanian teacher graduates are in demand nationally – except in Queensland, where there are no teacher shortages.

The acting Dean of Education, Megan Cavanagh-Russell, said a lack of job placement opportunities in Tasmania had led to some excellent graduates being unable to gain permanent work here.

She said students would need to meet criteria set by the University to be chosen for internship placements in WA.

“WA has a teacher shortage and Tasmanian graduates are well-regarded, so this agreement is mutually beneficial,” Ms Cavanagh-Russell said.

“It also underlines the fact that we are not just a university for Tasmania – our graduates are being prepared for employment in national and international settings.”

**Further comment: Faculty of Education Dean, Megan Cavanagh-Russell on 6324 3144**

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