

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Death of Emeritus Professor Phillip Hughes AO**

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Professor Peter Rathjen, has recognised the contribution to education of Emeritus Professor Phillip Hughes AO, who died yesterday.

“Phillip Hughes was a truly distinguished Tasmanian and an outstanding graduate of the University of Tasmania,” Prof. Rathjen said.

“He was Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 1947, and his career, both before and after his official retirement in 1991, illustrated his commitment to the ideals of Rhodes Scholarship, to the University of Tasmania and to education in Australia and internationally.”

The current Dean of Education, Professor Ian Hay, said Prof. Hughes was a significant educator who played a leading role in developing and extending year 11 and 12 education in Tasmania and Canberra.

“As head of the Department of Teacher Education at UTAS, as it was then, Prof Hughes also worked in partnership with the Education Department to establish the first systematic professional development program where working Tasmanian teachers could study to upgrade their teaching qualifications to Bachelor and Master of Education degrees,” he said.

Prof Hughes was the initial principal of the Hobart Teachers College before being appointed Tasmania’s Deputy Director-General of Education, a post he held from 1965 to 1969.

He then moved to Canberra as head of the School of Education at the Canberra College of Advanced Education, introducing the first four-year Bachelor of Education degree in the country. Between 1973 -1977 he was Foundation Chairman of the ACT Schools Authority, the first new education system in Australia since Federation.

He returned to Tasmania in 1981 as Professor of Teacher Education, a post he held until his retirement in 1991.

Prof Hughes was chairman of the university's Professorial Board during the important negotiations for amalgamation between the university and the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology.

In 1990 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia.

During his career Prof Hughes served the community locally, nationally and internationally. He was a member of the Higher Education Mission to the South Pacific in 1965 that led to the foundation of the University of the South Pacific and in 1993 he worked for the OECD in Paris analysing and reporting on curriculum trends in the 24-member countries.

In 1995 the University of Tasmania awarded Prof Hughes an honorary Doctor of Medicine for his contribution to the re-accreditation of the School of Medicine.

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