



Government Media Statement

5 August 2008

DAVID BARTLETT Premier and Minister for Education and Skills

New teacher training centre

A new Teacher Learning Centre will be established at Rokeby High School to help support aspiring teachers gain more practical experience before they enter the classroom.

Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, David Bartlett, announced today that around \$350,000 would be invested to redevelop existing facilities at Rokeby High School to create a leading-edge learning facility for pre-service teachers.

“Our aim is to build a learning space which will build teaching experiences for these students to help support them in their teaching career,” Mr Bartlett said.

“We envisage that the centre will be utilised by not only the student teachers, but post-graduate students undertaking a variety of courses as well as a venue for meetings for departmental staff.

“I am genuinely excited about this initiative, and it is expected that the Teacher Learning Centre will be completed and ready for learning in 2009.

“Our support in establishing this learning centre demonstrates the importance we place on our recently-signed partnership with the University of Tasmania.”

Mr Bartlett also announced that as part of the partnership, the Department was developing a trial in 2009 for a group of 20 second year Bachelor of Teaching students.

“These students will be supported by excellent Department teachers who will also work closely with UTAS in order to better link the theoretical components of the course with teaching practice,” Mr Bartlett said.

“Under the initiative, one ‘colleague’ teacher will be responsible for mentoring four student teachers.

“Initially, these teachers will be based at a small number of teacher learning schools.

“The selection process for the student teachers is expected to be underway by the start of Term 3, with a view to starting the program by Term 1, 2009.”

University of Tasmania Vice Chancellor Daryl Le Grew welcomed the announcement, saying that there was no doubt that high quality teaching is a key driver of student performance.

“Improving teacher quality and student achievement has a direct impact on the future prosperity of the State in the key areas of productivity and participation,” Prof. Le Grew said.

“UTAS believes the trial builds on the strengths of both organisations and welcomes the opportunity to explore new ways of integrating the theoretical and practical components of teaching courses.”

Prof. Le Grew announced that as part of the partnership agreement, UTAS had committed to support ongoing professional development opportunities to enable teachers to regularly update and improve their teaching practice and discipline knowledge through formal university study.

“UTAS is developing new postgraduate coursework programs such as a graduate certificate in science education to support priority teaching areas identified through partnership discussions,” Prof. Le Grew said.

“We have reached an agreement with the Department that will allow all teachers to do further study at UTAS without direct cost to the teachers. This is a fundamental element in embedding and supporting a

systemic approach to the ongoing development of the teaching profession.”

Mr Bartlett also acknowledged the Australian Education Union for its willingness to investigate the possibility of forming a joint partnership with the DoE and UTAS to explore ways of ensuring high quality teacher training in the future.

Mr Bartlett said that the centre had been previously designated to house the Secretary of the Department of Education’s offices.

“However, due to the importance of having a centre in already-established school facilities, it was agreed that the Secretary would remain for the time being in Hobart’s central business district,” Mr Bartlett said.

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