

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: MONDAY 31 AUGUST 2009

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Euthanasia debate for UTAS *Lawfest* in Launceston

Around 450 legal studies students from Tasmanian colleges will converge on Launceston's Albert Hall on Tuesday (1 September 2009) to hear a debate on the controversial issue of euthanasia.

Australian Greens Senator Bob Brown will tackle the debate with the Reverend Professor Michael Tate and UTAS Professor Margaret Otlowski, who has had her PhD on voluntary euthanasia and the common law published by Oxford University Press.

It is the first year that *Lawfest*, an annual event held by the UTAS Law Faculty and the School of Government, will be held in Launceston since it began nine years ago.

The Dean of Law Professor Don Chalmers said the event is unique in Australia.

"At *Lawfest* legal studies students and teachers gather to listen to eminent academic, legal and political speakers in their field of expertise on topical issues in law and politics," he said.

"It give the students a great opportunity to hear from the leaders in the community about issues affecting their lives."

The debate will be held in the morning, while in the afternoon students will hear about the court system and research into juries and sentencing. The Chief Magistrate of Tasmania Michael Hill will speak on his perspectives on the reform of the courts.

**MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND *LAWFEST* FROM 10AM UNTIL 2.40PM.
THE DAY'S PROGRAMME IS ATTACHED BELOW.**

**For more information or to contact Prof. Don Chalmers (Dean of Law) or
Professor Aynsley Kellow (Head of the School of Government) on 0428 651 948
(m)**

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LAW FEST 2009

TIME	ALBERT HALL LAUNCESTON SEPTEMBER 1 2009
10.00am- 10.15 am	WELCOME AND OPENING His Excellency the Honourable Ewan Crawford, Lieutenant-Governor of Tasmania Professor Don Chalmers and Professor Aynsley Kellow
10.20 10.35 am 10.40	MESSAGE from The Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, Chief Justice Robert French Matters of the High Court. I Dr Tony McCall Interest Groups and Reform of the law Convenor Professor Aynsley Kellow
11.05am 11.25 am	MORNING TEA
11.30 a m - 12.35 p m 12.35 - 12. 45 p m	Topical Legal Issues EUTHANASIA Professor Margaret Otlowski Rev Professor Michael Tate Senator Bob Brown AEC How to vote presentation and instructions. Convenor Mr Dale Chen
12.45 – 1.15 pm	LUNCH and VOTING
1.20 pm – 1.50 pm !.50 p m – 2.20 p m 2.20 – 2.35 p m 2.40 p m	Dr Rebecca Bradfield Explanation of TLRI and Perspectives: Juries and Sentencing Chief Magistrate Michael Hill Perspectives: Judges and Sentencing. Reforms of the Court. Professor Aynsley Kellow (VOTING RESULTS) Close