

MEDIA RELEASE

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Rural communities receive \$50,000 to celebrate rural health

Rural communities from across Tasmania have successfully tapped into a share of the \$50,000 in seeding grants available to support local health and wellbeing activities to be staged during Rural Health Week from 3-9 September 2007.

“The response from rural communities has been overwhelming,” said Stuart Auckland, Chair of Rural Health Week and Assistant Director of the University Department of Rural Health.

Twenty four Rural Health Week Regional Planning Groups will each receive up to \$2000 in grants to support local health and wellbeing activities during Rural Health Week.”

Mr Auckland said the activities planned for the week all had a strong primary health care focus and would involve local health care workers, council employees and local schools.

“The key messages of Rural Health Week are evident in the variety of activities that are currently being planned. Activities themes are diverse, ranging from an expo for positive ageing, a healthy eating ‘Gourmet Delish Day’ to ‘Fightin’ Fit Farmers’ and ‘Laughing Together on King Island’,” he said.

Rural communities recognise the importance of healthy lifestyle choices and are using Rural Health Week to tell their stories in the way that best reflects their communities’ interests and aspirations about health and wellbeing under the theme “Celebrating Rural Health.

Importantly, Rural Health Week will bring together different communities that all have a stake in the health of their community.

A highlight of Rural Health Week is the inaugural Rural Health Week Awards, to be presented by the Minister for Health and Human Services, the Hon Lara Giddings, to the finalists at a ceremony in Launceston on Sunday 2 September. A total of 45 nominations were received for the two award categories on offer.

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