

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## *Key role for UTAS in state education reform*

The University of Tasmania will play a key role toward developing the [Tasmania Tomorrow](#) educational reforms, Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said today.

Professor Le Grew recently met with Department of Education Secretary Mr John Smyth to discuss the reforms, which are aimed at improving Tasmania's poor secondary school retention rates and encouraging students to continue on to tertiary study.

"It is critical to Tasmania's future that the secondary school and higher education sectors work together to increase the retention of students through school and then on to further study," Professor Le Grew said.

Professor Le Grew will join Melbourne's Professor Jack Keating, TAFE Tasmania board chair Dr James Cretan and Novaris managing director Ms Diane Tompson to speak at the Qualifications and Skills for Tasmania Tomorrow breakfast symposium to be held in Hobart tomorrow (Tuesday July 24).

"Tasmania's university participation rates are well below those of mainland Australia and it is essential that the University plays an integral role in any reforms aimed at improving the number of students who continue on to university," Professor Le Grew said.

Professor Le Grew said he was pleased with the acknowledgement of education as a key economic driver.

“The Treasurer is absolutely right in identifying that every additional year of education across the community will increase long-term state productivity by eight per cent.”

Professor Le Grew said Tasmania’s economic and social future depended on a skilled and dynamic workforce.

“We will need people who can engage in new creative and high-tech industries, as well as create innovations in our more traditional industries,” he said.

“The University of Tasmania is looking forward to working closely with the Department of Education to explore and develop the ideas and aims of Tasmania Tomorrow.”

\* NOTE: The Qualifications and Skills for Tasmania Tomorrow breakfast symposium will be held at Wrest Point Casino, Sandy Bay, from 7.30am to 9.30am.

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