

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Free dementia education course a global hit

The world's first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) devoted to dementia education, developed by the University of Tasmania, is making a global impact. More than 12,000 participants have now registered for the second offering of the free *Understanding Dementia* MOOC, with more than a quarter international.

As dementia is quickly becoming the public health challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the *Understanding Dementia* MOOC offers much-needed support through education. The nine-week course from the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre within the University's Faculty of Health, offers students a university-quality education about the latest dementia research and care.

Wicking's Dr Carolyn King believes that education and understanding are the first steps to creating more dementia-friendly communities.

"Dementia is such an important issue that everyone should have access to this information.

"An estimated 1.2 million Australians are involved in the care of someone with dementia, and we are looking to support these people with evidence-based knowledge in order to help them provide quality care," Dr King said.

"We have worked hard to create an online resource that is not only accessible and user-friendly, but also full of practical advice and cutting-edge research."

Registrations for the *Understanding Dementia* MOOC close on April 30. To register, visit: [www.utas.edu.au/wicking/understanding-dementia](http://www.utas.edu.au/wicking/understanding-dementia)

*Note: If you would like to interview one of our 12,000 participants about their MOOC experience, please email [acgibson@utas.edu.au](mailto:acgibson@utas.edu.au) or call 0362 264 213.*

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