

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Healthy careers for NW Year 10 students**

Year 10 students from Tasmania's North-West will be catapulted into the future today to experience first-hand the challenges of working in the health professions.

The 35 students, from 12 schools, are attending the UTAS Rural Clinical School as part of an annual three-day Health Careers Camp.

The students will work with medical specialists during simulated medical situations in the operating theatre and gain an insight into what it is like to work as a theatre nurse, environmental health officer, biomedical specialist, anaesthetist, dietician, radiographer and physiotherapist. They will even get a chance to test their dentistry skills by filling a tooth cavity and concocting "mock" pharmaceuticals.

The Health Careers Camp has had success in attracting students into health-related university courses since it was piloted in 2000.

Six current UTAS students, who attended the camp when they were in Year 10, will offer advice to the latest group of North-West high school students considering careers in health. They include Smithton's Amy House who is studying Medicine and Ulverstone's Sarah Holden who is a Pharmacy student.

Those students who are inspired to become the next generation of health professionals will be facing some major changes when they graduate between the years 2015 and 2020, with predictions that careers in health are set to expand and diversify.

UTAS Rural Clinical School chief executive Professor Judi Walker said the camp aims to inspire and better inform Year 10 students from across the North-West region who have an interest in a future career in health.

"It is part of a strategy to ultimately have more people from rural areas working in health across a range of disciplines," she said.

"With research backing up the concept that those with rural origins or connections are more likely to practice in rural areas following completion of their qualifications, the camp is seen one approach to help address the rural health workforce shortage."

The camp is delivered through a partnership between UTAS's Rural Clinical School, the North-West Area Health Service and the Education Department.

*For more information please contact, Rural Clinical School Marketing Manager,  
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