

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY JUNE 20, 2007

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

---



## Northern volunteers sought for epilepsy study

Christine Pritchett and Dr Mathew Summers from the School of Psychology are currently conducting a study examining the relationship between seizure type and attention, concentration, memory and learning.

Volunteers who are over 18 years of age and who have been diagnosed with epilepsy are invited to participate in this study.

Epilepsy describes abnormal brain function occurring in either a specific (focal) region or throughout the brain (generalised) and can lead to episodes of abnormal neuronal discharge often accompanied by sensory and/or motor seizures.

Epilepsy may be a symptom of a large range of conditions including traumatic brain injury, stroke, illness, congenital brain abnormality or genetic factors. Previous research indicates that cognitive impairment, particularly to memory functions, is often associated with epilepsy.

However, it is unclear as to how different forms of epilepsy and seizures relate to patterns of deficits to cognitive function. The aim of the project is to investigate whether different types of seizures give rise to different patterns of attention, memory and learning impairments.

In this study, participants will undertake neuropsychological testing over 1 hour. All testing will occur at the Launceston campus of the University of Tasmania, and may also take place at the Burnie campus. All participants will receive an individual report of their test results at the conclusion of the study.

All information and results collected will remain strictly confidential. Partners and relatives are also encouraged to participate as we also require a comparison group.

For anyone interested in taking part in this study, please contact Christine Pritchett on 0417 307 911, or Dr Mathew Summers on (03) 6324 3266.

**Information Released by:**

**The Media Liaison Office, University of Tasmania**

**Phone: 6226 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291**

**Email: [Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)**