UTAS academic to chair national rural health body

Associate Professor Sue Kilpatrick, Director of University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) Tasmania, has been appointed Chair of the Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN).

ARHEN is the national secretariat for the University Departments of Rural Health (UDRHs), of which UDRH Tasmania is a member. ARHEN’s purpose is to promote leadership in rural health education, research and innovation.

Prof Sue Kilpatrick will represent ARHEN in its dealings with other government and non-government organisations and the media. She will also provide guidance and direction regarding the management and operations of ARHEN.

“I am honoured to take up the position of Chair of ARHEN at this challenging time for the national rural health agenda,” Prof Kilpatrick said.

“The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing has recently established the Office of Rural Health. ARHEN will be maintaining an active dialogue with the new policy making body.

“ARHEN and UDRHs are about improving rural health, increasing rural health workforce support and training, undertaking solution focused research and developing innovative health models.”

Associate Professor Kilpatrick has a special research interest in promoting social networks and partnerships in regional Australia. This interest complements the UDRH Tasmania’s ongoing work in community engagement and on rural health workforce issues.