



Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009

## MEDIA RELEASE

# HCC & UTAS SIGN MOU TO STRENGTHEN HOBART AS AN EDUCATION CENTRE

The Hobart City Council and the University of Tasmania are working to promote Hobart as a centre of educational excellence offering world class educational opportunities and facilities.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by the Hobart City Council and the University of Tasmania (UTAS) today.

In a joint statement today, the Lord Mayor Alderman Rob Valentine and the Vice-Chancellor of UTAS, Professor Daryl Le Grew said that the Council and UTAS have common interests in promoting Hobart as an attractive place to study, live and work.

“Promoting the value that a vibrant, dynamic city adds to a distinctive student experience; and the contribution that a significant student population makes to the economic and cultural life of the city is one of our key objectives,” Alderman Valentine said.

Professor Le Grew said education is a key industry for Hobart and the University is proud of its reputation which attracts students from all over the world to Tasmania.

“There are tremendous benefits for Hobart as a result of the students and academics that come to the University of Tasmania,” Professor Le Grew said.

“We know that Hobart is proud to have UTAS as an international university working out of Tasmania, attracting students locally, nationally and internationally and we are very happy to be working with the Hobart City Council to further this.”

There are three key initiatives which will be pursued as priorities for the first year of the new partnership, including economic development, professional development and infrastructure development.

Alderman Valentine said the Council and the University would work together to build much stronger recognition of the value of the City to the student experience. The University would also assist in the development of Council's Inner City Development Plan.

Professor Le Grew said the University will provide professional development and education opportunities at UTAS for the Council staff as well as investigate opportunities for new areas of education and training relevant to Local Government employees within Tasmania and interstate.

The Council and the University will also collaborate on implementing the UTAS Master Plan as it relates to the Hobart Central Business District and investigate opportunities for economically and environmentally sustainable developments by UTAS for education facilities and student amenities.

"This agreement is important in that it recognises the close relationship between the University and Tasmania's capital city as well as recognising the positive contribution the University makes to the social, cultural and economic development of the community," he said.

A working party has been established to oversee the partnership and to exchange information about plans and proposed initiatives. The agreement will be reviewed annually with new priorities set for the following year.

"This MOU provides a framework for collaboration that will support and enhance the research, education and public/community service objectives of both organisations," Alderman Valentine said.

"This collaboration is for the mutual benefit of the Council, the University, and our stakeholders and for the benefit of the State of Tasmania."

For further information contact:

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