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University grows the Psychology workforce for Tasmania

In a move to help grow the next generation of mental health care professionals in Tasmania, the University's Psychology Clinic has expanded.

Originally centrally located on the University's Sandy Bay Campus, the clinic has moved to fit-for-purpose facilities in the former Commerce Building, off French Street, Sandy Bay campus.

The new location has trebled the number of consulting rooms, increasing training placements for postgraduate students as well as providing new opportunities for private practicing psychologists to reside.

"The University Psychology Clinic has provided a vital service to the community for more than 30 years, and had really outgrown its current location," Professor Lisa Foa, Head of the School of Psychological Sciences, said.

"The Clinic has played a pivotal role, as being the State's only training practice, where postgraduate students complete their studies prior to registration and becoming psychologists.

"In the last 18 months, the second top reason people visited their GP in Tasmania was due to depression, with one in five GP consultations regarding a mental health issue.

"The clinic's move provides the opportunity to expand and respond to the growing demand for psychological services in Tasmania through creating greater education and training opportunities for our students."

The University Psychology Clinic provides specialist general and clinical psychology services providing assistance with general mental health issues including anxiety, stress, and strategies for parenting or child behaviour issues.

Clients can access therapy services with Masters students, under the supervision of an experienced and registered psychologist.

The clinic's expansion also provides an opportunity for registered, private practising psychologists to re-locate to the new location.

"Increasing opportunities to access psychological services will directly benefit and further support Tasmanian communities' health and wellbeing," Professor Foa said.

"While the new clinic enhances the training of our graduates and support the growth of future health professionals, it will also strengthen research avenues."

For enquiries call 6226 2805 or email psy.clinic@utas.edu.au

About the University Psychology Clinic

The University Psychology Clinic provides face-to-face and telehealth services including the Cool for Kids program and is located in Hobart. It also offers specialist clinical psychology assessment and intervention for a range of psychological and health-related conditions. For more information on services and new location visit the Clinic's webpage <u>here</u>

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