



UNIVERSITY *of*  
TASMANIA

Tuesday 7 January 2020

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## Media Alert

**\*\*\*Media opportunity – Tasmanian Health Service Intern and Resident Medical Officer of the Year awards presentation - Wednesday, 8 January, 1 pm, Rural Clinical School, Burnie. \*\*\***

# Newly-graduated doctors kickstart careers on the Coast

Medical students who graduated from the University of Tasmania during December are kickstarting their careers as North-West doctors this week.

Twelve students who completed their higher education at the Rural Clinical School in Burnie are remaining in the region to commence hospital residencies.

The interns will undertake their orientation in Burnie before beginning three-month rotations in places that include King Island and Queenstown.

Associate Professor Dr Lizzi Shires, Director of the Rural Clinical School, said it was exciting to have students staying on to further their education and training.

"We are pleased to have so many of our graduates staying on as interns. Some of the interns grew up on the North-West, and others came here for placement and are keen to stay on," Dr Shires said.

"Clinicians enjoy working with young doctors they have trained as it makes the transition very smooth.

"We are very proud our graduates have developed an interest in rural health, a love for the North-West, and a commitment for supporting this region's communities.

"Over the next 12 months the group will be furthering their training in emergency departments, surgical and medical wards and local practices, while also gaining insight into areas of medicine that include orthopaedics and rehabilitation medicine," Dr Shires said.

The students graduated from the Tasmanian School of Medicine, which is part of the College of Health and Medicine at the University of Tasmania.

As part of Orientation Week, a local junior doctor who undertook their internship in 2019 will be recognised with an Intern of the Year award for acting as a role model and inspiring others.

A Resident Medical Officer (RMO) accolade will also be awarded to the region's top-performing junior doctor.

The awards are presented in honour of Dr Paul Huang who was a radiologist at the North-West Regional Hospital for many years until the early 1990s, and Dr Richard Buttfield, a former Director of Medical Services at the hospital and CEO of the North-West Health Region in the early 1990s.

Associate Professor Kathleen Atkinson, Executive Director of Medical Services for the North West Region Tasmanian Health Service, said recruitment and retention of doctors to rural and remote areas is a daily challenge for Tasmania and to see students who studied in Tasmania, who now want to work in local hospitals is a great outcome.

"These awards also provide our local medical teams, who have worked with the interns and resident medical doctors, the opportunity to nominate and recognise those who have demonstrated excellence in clinical management, professionalism and communication.

"Award selection is not just about academic excellence; it is about how they work with others and as a member of a clinical team. They lead by example and inspire those around them.

"Our long and established partnership with the University of Tasmania and the Regional Training Hub enables graduates to progress their careers locally in the North West in specialities such as anaesthetics, obstetrics, general and emergency medicine. This means we are not only growing our workforce but building the skillset of those who call North West Tasmania home," Dr Atkinson said.

### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:**

**What:** Tasmanian Health Service Intern and RMO of the Year Award presentation;

**When:** **TOMORROW** Wednesday, 8 January, 1 pm;

**Where:** University of Tasmania Rural Clinical School, North-West Regional Hospital, Brickport Road, Burnie.

**\*The 2020 North-West interns will be available for photo/filming/interview opportunities following the Tasmanian Health Service Awards event.**

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#### **Information released by:**

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