



Richmond Fellowship Tasmania Inc.

198 New Town Road, New Town, TAS 7008

Phone (03) 6228 3344 Fax (03) 6228 3300

Email admin@rftas.org.au www.rftas.org.au

Patron

His Excellency

The Honourable Peter Underwood AC

Governor of Tasmania

## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **Photo/Story Opportunity**

**Where: Punchbowl Christian Centre, Launceston**

**When: TODAY, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Time: 10am - 10.30am**

*beyondblue* ambassador and former AFL star Nathan Thompson will join a host of mental health sector leaders in Launceston this Wednesday to discuss mental health challenges faced by children in Tasmania.

Richmond Fellowship Tasmania (RFT) is hosting a discussion forum on the importance of good mental health in children, in particular the link between education and mental health and the impact of modern culture on children.

RFT's State President Ian Munday said forums such as this are important for encouraging ongoing discussion around mental health issues in the state.

"There is growing concern that modern education structures are not capable of sufficiently supporting children to process the acceleration of technology," Mr Munday said.

"This forum is to encourage people to talk about how we can ensure the next generation has the best chance for improved mental health."

*beyondblue's* Secondary Schools Program Manager Athena Vass will speak about the importance of education, teaching resilience and heightening help seeking in adolescence.

"It is important for communities to understand how to empower educational settings, staff and institutions - with the knowledge and tools to improve the mental health of all young people," says Athena.

Other speakers at the forum include Tasmanian Magistrate Reg Marron, Early Learning Coordinator Lynn Wylie-Watson and UTAS Teacher and Training Support Coordinator Dr Karen Swabey.

Media contact: Simon Kitto 0458 982 842 OR Alicia Lynch 6228 3344