MEDIA RELEASE / STATEMENT

9 November 2015

**EMBARGOED until 1pm 10 November 2015**

Equal Opportunity Tasmania

From 10 November 2015, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner’s office will be known as Equal Opportunity Tasmania.

The adoption of the new name will coincide with the release of new publications, including a new website and logo.

In announcing the changes, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Ms Robin Banks, said the changes reflect the positive impact of recent amendments to the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998.* She stated the changes are aimed at promoting increased understanding of the positive purpose of discrimination law, and compliance with that law.

‘The changes are aimed at improving the way in which we work with the Tasmanian community so more people understand the positive benefits of ensuring equal opportunity for all, understand the obligations we all have, and have the knowledge and skills to take action to prevent discrimination’, Commissioner Banks said.

‘Equal opportunity is a cornerstone of the work we do. It underpins our efforts to foster a society that is free of discrimination, prejudice, bias and harassment.’

‘What we want to see is every Tasmanian and the organisations of which they are part examining their practices and procedures to make sure they promote equality of opportunity for everyone regardless of their individual differences.’

Whether it is intervening when we encounter abuse or harassment on the street, or reviewing employment, service delivery or communication practices, there are many ways in which we can all make a difference.’

‘While my office continues to deal with a significant number of complaints made under the Act, our focus has always been on supporting and encouraging practices that achieve equal opportunity and preventing discrimination before it occurs.’

‘Our new name, Equal Opportunity Tasmania, will play an important role in getting this message across’, Commissioner Banks said.

**Please Note:** Ms Banks will be joined by the Attorney General, Vanessa Goodwin, on Parliament House lawns at 1:00 pm on 10 November 2015 to mark the occasion and launch a the new name and a range of information materials. Media welcome.

For further information and all media enquiries: Robin Banks ph. 6165 7515.