

Falls a growing problem

With falls by the elderly a growing area of health care, particularly given Tasmania's ageing population, the new *Stand Up Right – Stay Upright!* project, managed by the University Department of Rural Health, Tasmania, could have significant implications.

Stand Up Right – Stay Upright! is one of five national demonstration projects under the Department of Health and Ageing's Falls Prevention for Older People Initiative. The project aims to improve the communication between hospital Departments of Emergency Medicine and GPs, and assist GPs to use the new Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) items for falls prevention activities. The project will result in a model to increase support and preventive measures for people before they have a serious fall by making sure that information is passed to the patient and his/her GP, so that everyone can work together. If successful, the model used may be transferable to other health situations.

For more details about *Stand Up Right – Stay Upright!* contact Project Officer Maree Fish, at the Anne O'Bryne Centre in Launceston.

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