

Off-season conference call

BRUCE MOUNSTER

WINTER is conference season - at least that's what Hobart's tourism and hospitality sector would like it to be.

This week's Global Health Conference and next week's Australian Medical Student's Association (AMSA) National Convention will pull in as many as 1400 medical students from all parts of Australia, generating about \$840,000.

The University of Tasmania Geography and Environmental studies conference and the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation conference at the Rokeby Police Academy,

Hobart's move to boost tourism

two events that began yesterday, will involve mostly Tasmanian participants.

Most of the medical students are staying at Wrest Point Hotel Casino, which is nearly full for two weeks during a normally lean winter period.



NOTHING WASTED: Bharat Visa helps SecondBite redistribute leftover conference meals to the needy.

The AMSA convention will also pull in famous speakers next week, including Australian of the Year Patrick

McGorry, former cricketer and breast cancer fighter Glenn McGrath, neurosurgeon Charlie Teo and former Australian of the Year Sir Gustav Nossal.

The Global Health conference has also set an unprecedented environmental and social awareness standard for Hobart, which includes vegetarian-only meals.

And leftover conference meals, normally thrown out, are instead whisked away by SecondBite Tasmania - an organisation which redirects surplus food to the community's most needy, in this case the Salvation Army.

The medical student functions were lured to Tasmania

by Business Events Tasmania, a not-for-profit membership organisation tasked with bidding for and supporting national and international conferences.

Chief executive Stuart Nettelford said the estimated \$840,000 injection was particularly valuable in pepping up the hospitality industry during the winter off-season.

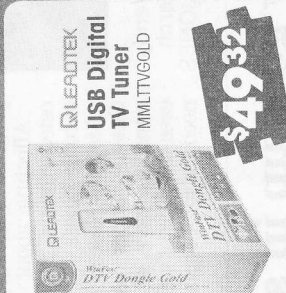
Airport revamp urged to retain jet services

THE State Government needs to upgrade the Devonport airport to jet status now it was no longer up for sale, Braddon MP Adam Brooks has said.

Mr Brooks asked Tourism Minister Michelle O'Byrne during Budget estimates hearings yesterday why the airport did not accommodate jets.

He said the Government needed to invest in the airport, if it could not sell it, to make it useful to the community.

"Since the Government was gifted the airport, they have neglected it, they decided to sell it, then put some astronomical price on it, allowed investors to waste time



WIDEST RANGE

