



**TASMANIA POLICE GRADUATION CEREMONY
RECRUIT TRAINING COURSE 1/2026
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
TASMANIA POLICE ACADEMY, ROKEBY, FRIDAY 24 JULY 2026**

Thank you, Commissioner Adams, for your kind introduction.

May I too also thank you Angela for the Acknowledgement of Country. I'd personally like to pay my respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have served as first responders and contributed to the safety and protection of our Tasmanian and national communities.

I was delighted when asked so early in my term as Governor, to review today's graduation parade and be part of this ceremony. It's a privilege and honour, so thank you.

This is an important day for you, the members of Recruit Training Course 1 of 2026, for your families and loved ones, for Tasmania Police, and for the broader Tasmanian community you are preparing to serve.

As the Commissioner has said, today marks the culmination of many months of demanding academic, physical, operational and practical training. You have worked hard, shown resilience and determination, and earned the right to stand here today. So very well done and congratulations to each and every one of you.

Today is not only a celebration of everything you have achieved, but also the beginning of an important new chapter.

Each of you has chosen a profession founded on public service. Policing will ask you to step forward when others may need to step away. You will be called upon when circumstances are uncertain, when emotions are heightened and, often, when members of our community are experiencing some of the most difficult moments of their lives. While that responsibility is significant, it is also an extraordinary privilege—to be there for people when they need someone most.

My own professional career began in nursing and continued in the health, community and not-for-profit sectors. Throughout that career, I saw the importance of supporting people experiencing illness, vulnerability, uncertainty and distress. I also learned that however important your professional knowledge is, it must always be accompanied by empathy, kindness, genuine listening and respect. These qualities will be just as important in your work as police officers.

You will work with young people, older Tasmanians, people experiencing mental ill-health, families affected by violence, and people dealing with grief, trauma, disadvantage or isolation. Some situations will require decisiveness and courage. Others will call for patience, compassion and reassurance. You may never know the lasting impact of taking the time to listen, offering a calm explanation or simply treating someone with dignity and respect. Those moments matter. They build trust, strengthen communities and remind people that someone cares. At its heart, policing is about people.

Your uniform gives you a visible and trusted place within the community. Your conduct and your decisions will be closely observed, and you will rightly be held to high professional and ethical standards. Every interaction is an opportunity to demonstrate the integrity, professionalism and humanity that your community expects and deserves.

I want to echo the Commissioner's comments about the importance of our values. They are more than words—they guide the decisions we make, the way we treat others and the standard we set every day.

The Tasmania Police values of Accountability, Integrity, Respect and Support provide a strong foundation for the work ahead. There will be times when these values are tested—when you are tired, under pressure or faced with hostility.

In those moments, they will help guide your actions and decisions. Your training has equipped you with the knowledge and operational skills to respond with confidence, and with every experience throughout your career, your judgement, resilience and confidence will continue to grow.

Remember that you are never alone in this profession. You are joining a team – a team that relies on trust, professionalism and looking out for one another. Lean on your colleagues, learn from those around you and never hesitate to offer support or ask for it when you need it. Our greatest strengths come from working together.

As you graduate today, I also want to acknowledge your families, friends and loved ones. They have encouraged you throughout your training and have undoubtedly shared in its demands and sacrifices. Their support will remain important as you encounter shift work, missed special occasions and the inevitable pressures of policing. To your families and loved ones, thank you for the encouragement, patience and belief you have shown. Today is your achievement too, and your ongoing support will continue to make a real difference.

To the graduating constables, today you should take great pride in what you have achieved. You have earned your place through commitment, perseverance and hard work. Congratulations on graduating from the

Tasmania Police Academy. I wish each of you every success as you begin your policing careers and this exciting new chapter.

Never underestimate the difference you can make. Sometimes it will be through the big moments that everyone sees. More often, it will be through the quiet acts of professionalism, kindness and compassion that may never make the headlines, but will remain with the people whose lives you have touched.

Look after yourselves and look after each other.

On behalf of the people of Tasmania, thank you—and every good wish for the journey ahead.