



**ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
FRIENDS FOR THE FUTURE MORNING TEA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026**

Good morning, everyone. I am delighted to welcome you all here to Government House as we acknowledge and thank supporters of the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation.

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge the Palawa people as the First Peoples of Lutruwita/Tasmania and the Traditional Custodians of this land. For countless generations, they have cared for and nurtured this remarkable island, its landscapes, waterways and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present and recognise the enduring contribution of Aboriginal Tasmanians to the cultural, social and spiritual life of our State.

This morning – in fact, just 25 minutes ago at 10:05 am – the Spring Equinox took place here in Tasmania, marking the official start of Spring.

As we all know, Spring is a time for renewal, growth and looking to the future. The season reminds us that what we nurture today can flourish long after we are gone.

What an appropriate time, then, for us to gather to celebrate legacy giving, and acknowledge those whose generosity will continue to make a difference for generations of Tasmanians.

As Patron, I am so pleased to welcome the generous supporters of the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation who are here with us today. Thanks to you, so many of your fellow Tasmanians have been able to enjoy better healthcare outcomes.

As the Foundation looks forward to its 30th anniversary next year, it has recently become the official charity partner for all Hospital South health facilities, expanding its capacity to support healthcare across southern Tasmania.

Just this year, it has already invested more than \$1 million in healthcare and medical research in our State. This has included local medical research projects focused on cancer, multiple sclerosis, neurological disorders, heart disease and other major health challenges.

In addition to this vital research funding, the Foundation has raised funds for specialist equipment – beyond standard hospital funding – which has supported clinicians with access to technology that enhances diagnosis, treatment and patient care. This has included paediatric emergency equipment, specialised imaging technology and equipment supporting critically ill patients.

Today we particularly honour our Friends for the Future. As Governor, I often speak about the importance of leading with compassion, kindness and purpose. There is perhaps no better embodiment of this philosophy than ensuring that you continue to help others after you are gone.

By leaving a gift in their Will, the Friends for the Future bequestors are undertaking an extraordinary act of foresight and generosity that will create a truly lasting legacy.

For example, a historic bequest to the Foundation from the Estate of Dai Curtis continues to support great outcomes for the next generation of Tasmanians. This year, it has supported the CAST Away Tas study, which focuses on improving treatment options for children attending Emergency Departments with broken wrists and forearm fractures.

More recently, the bequest from the Estate of Letty Doddridge has funded important research into inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and bowel cancer. A current grant round will provide a further \$130,000 for bowel cancer-related research, demonstrating how targeted bequests can advance research in areas of significant community need.

While it may be an uncomfortable topic for many of us to discuss over morning tea, I join with the Foundation in encouraging all Tasmanians to ensure they have a valid Will.

This not only provides certainty for our loved ones, but – as we have seen through the example of Dai Curtis and Letty Doddridge – it is also an opportunity to support causes that will continue to make an impact well beyond our lifetime.

In this way, a gift in a Will is more than a contribution to a hospital, it is an investment in Tasmania's future health and wellbeing.

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Board, staff and volunteers of the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation for all you do to support the work of our dedicated doctors, researchers, nurses and healthcare professionals.

I once again thank all supporters of the Foundation for contributing to this important cause, whether that be through taking part in the exciting calendar of fundraising events, making regular donations or partnering with the Foundation.

Finally, I acknowledge the generosity, compassion and foresight of the Friends for the Future. Their impact will continue to be felt through better research, better healthcare and better outcomes for Tasmanians for many years to come.

Thank you, and please enjoy your morning tea.