

**ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER ROBIN BANKS
FAREWELL FUNCTION REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AM
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOBART TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2017**

Good afternoon everybody and thank you for inviting me to attend and share in this farewell function for Robin. I know I speak for all of us here today when I acknowledge the wonderful contribution that you have made to Tasmania through your role as Anti-Discrimination Commissioner.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land.

I acknowledge the Honourable Elise Archer, Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Honourable Vanessa Goodwin, Attorney General, The Honourable Jacque Petrusma, Minister for Women, the Honourable Bryan Green, Leader of the Opposition and Darren Hine, Police Commissioner of Tasmania.

I understand that there a quite a few speeches today and so mine will be short; but a heartfelt thank you to Robin for her work as Anti-Discrimination Commissioner in Tasmania for over 6 years in the role.

Raising the profile of the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner (now Equal Opportunity Tasmania) has been a constant driver for Robin – in the media, in schools and in the community, educating people about what is discrimination, about transgender and intersex discrimination, discrimination against people with disability, bullying and other behaviour that breaches the law together with information about how to make a complaint and what assistance is available to complainants.

I think equally important is the work Robin has done to educate perpetrators of the unlawful behaviour through the complaints process and the conciliations that bring parties together to talk about what has happened.

Robin has been active in making submissions to public inquiries and has been a courageous advocate for progressive law reform and human rights. I have personal experience of her work with the Tasmania Law Reform Institute. Early in her term she assisted with Institute's project on *Racial Vilification and Racially Motivated Offences* by giving access to the Commission's online incident reporting system and making a submission.

She also assisted with the Institute's Bullying project in 2014. More recently she has been actively working with the TLRI on a project on intermediaries and access to justice for people with complex communication needs. Last year her office helped with the consultations conducted by the TLRI on the issue.

I think Robin has brought a deep respect to the role of Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and to the Office through her courage and commitment to the role. She has set a very high standard for her successors to aspire to.

Well done Robin you have made a profound contribution to Tasmania and I wish you all the very best in your future pursuits.

Thank you.