

**REMARKS BY MRS FRANCES UNDERWOOD AT THE LAUNCH  
OF THE CHOIR OF HIGH HOPES CORPORATE PROSPECTUS,  
RACT HOUSE, HOBART, MONDAY 23 JULY 2012**

Good afternoon everybody.

The *Choir of High Hopes* was formed, in 2008, by Jenny Chapman. In January 2010 Helen Todd, then Creative Director and Co-Conductor, invited me to consider becoming the Choir's Patron.

Not only did I accept immediately, I considered it an honour to be have been asked, for this choir – its members, and creative and administrative staff – is about much more than music. It is about social entrepreneurship or, as the prospectus says, “giving a hand up, not a hand out.”

It could be said that the choir brings out the best in its members. I have no doubt there is truth in that. You only have to watch and hear the choir of High Hopes performing in front of audiences, large and small, to understand that.

But I also believe that this choir brings out the best in us who listen to them. It's impossible not to be uplifted and moved by these disadvantaged individuals who have chosen to make the effort. And they do it so well. Passion, purpose and feeling connected are powerful motivators. For all of these reasons I want to encourage each of you here today to use your corporate goodwill to broaden their profile in our community. It is so deserved.

And who knows, their warmth and passion – their single minded triumph over adversity – might even make a difference to the lives of others out there. And how rewarding would that be? Certainly, you could never quantify that in dollar terms, and I suspect nor would you really want to. But believe me, it will be money well spent!

As the Prospectus tells us, since the inception of the Choir there have been more than 80 public performances by over 200 attendees. This is a

good indication of an incorporated entity that means business, that is here to stay. And this becomes another motivating factor for us in the Hobart community to want to use our resources to support them and back them.

You will also have seen that the prospectus sets out Performance Options. These are: conference openings and related performances; community entertainment and promotional events; and staff development workshops. When you read the details of these in the Prospectus, you realise that they represent a surprising diversity of options, given that we are talking about is in effect a uniquely different choir.

May I also point out that under the tutelage of Helen Todd and her colleagues the Choir has reached a significant level of professionalism, and I think it is important to take this fact away with you: that if you contract the Choir of High Hopes for an event, you are contracting a thoroughly professional Hobart-based musical company.

I can tell you from my own experience at Government House that when we host receptions and local musicians play or sing for interstate and international guests, these things happen: the reception is enriched; the musicians gain access to an audience they otherwise might never perform for; the guests are never less than impressed with our local artists; and socially the music is like warmth to wax in easing connections between people who may have never met before.

Indeed, I have contracted the Choir of High Hopes to perform in the Government House Ball Room in September for the Australian Council of Adult Literacy conference delegates.

I would like to end with what you might think is an appropriate quote and food for thought. A wise musician, composer and music educator, Kodaly, once said "Music is an indispensable part of universal humanity. It is the expressive tool of the human soul, equally accessible to everyone, for we all have a voice to sing with. Music is a nourishing and comforting elixir that can provide strength to overcome many

difficulties.” With those words I launch the Choir of High Hopes  
prospectus; *Rebuilding lives through The Power of Song*