

**AFTERNOON TEA FOR KIDSAFE TASMANIA**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**DRAWING ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE,**  
**TUESDAY 17 AUGUST 2021**

**[Please be seated]**

Good afternoon and welcome to Government House for this afternoon tea for Kidsafe Tasmania.

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

May I acknowledge among us:

- Parliamentarians, Sarah Lovell and Madeleine Ogilvie
- President Peter Gibson and CEO Jenny Branch-Allen from Kidsafe Tasmania
- Mr Scott Tilyard, Road Safety Advisory Council
- Staff and supporters of Kidsafe Tasmania

As your Patron, I am particularly pleased to see you all here. I am very proud of your important work to make our community a safer place for children.

Kidsafe Tasmania is a not-for-profit and registered charity working proactively with parents, communities and governments to minimise childhood injuries. This is achieved by increasing awareness, providing child safety education and advocacy, and identifying the causes of childhood injuries.

Child safety spans from burns, to booster seats, safety in the home, around water, playgrounds, roads and day care.

Having two young grandsons, I listened carefully to Peter and Jenny's briefing when they visited, especially about the danger of button batteries, which can burn a child internally if swallowed.

During National Burns Awareness month in June, Kidsafe highlighted that every week 17 children are treated in a specialist burns unit across Australia and New Zealand. A campaign raising awareness of the causes and treatment of scalds and burns was conducted in partnership with the Australian and New Zealand Burns Association. May I congratulate you on that campaign.

One of the outcomes of that campaign initiative was that Kidsafe worked with children's entertainers, *The Scallywags*, to produce a song about burns, in and around the home. After we hear from your President and CEO, *The Scallywags* will perform their song for us.

Another major Kidsafe initiative is education on child restraint. As part of the *Towards Zero Action Plan (2020-2024)*, the Tasmanian Government provides Kidsafe with \$50 000 each year, to conduct free child restraint checks and education sessions in our State. This initiative is aimed at reducing serious injuries for young children, some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

At the end of our afternoon tea, you are invited outside where Don and I shall be shown how to correctly fit a child restraint. This is very handy, as it has always proved too difficult and beyond us. Our son-in-law has always had to patiently do it for us. Gone are the days when a baby can be placed in a bassinet on the back seat, as we did with our first daughter!

Thank you for the very important work that you do to help keep our children safe. I now hand over to our Official Secretary to introduce the next speaker.