

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 27 AUGUST 2021**

Good evening and I welcome you all to Government House and to this reception to acknowledge New Fellows of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in Tasmania.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land— the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and who continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among us, your Tasmania College Chair, Dr Tim Jackson, your Board Members and your College Staff.

I extend an especially warm welcome and my congratulations to each and all New Fellows of our Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in Tasmania. My husband, Don joins in my welcome. As some of you may know, he has had a long career working in health law and medical research ethics.

We are also very pleased to be hosting this reception because it gives us the opportunity not only to congratulate you on your Fellowships, but also to thank you for all your work and dedication in handling the Covid threat and our vaccine inoculation roll-out. You have all become the specialist generalist with the Covid pandemic, required to know about the vaccines, their strengths and limitations as well as their regulation and availability<sup>1</sup>. On behalf of all Tasmanians, I thank you for your work and your families for their support to you.

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<sup>1</sup> Reeve J et al Dismantling Lord Moran's ladder: the primary care expert generalist Br J Gen Pract. 2013 Jan; 63(606): 34–35. doi: 10.3399/bjgp13X660823

I also commend your College's commitment to the national training program initiated by the Safer Families Centre of Research Excellence with partners, Blue Knot Foundation and Phoenix Australia and Federal Government funding. Your program "New tailored family violence training for primary care"<sup>2</sup> has arisen from GP reports about a lack of access to existing resources.

In my former career as a judge, many of my parenting cases involved family violence. As Governor, I have decided to build awareness of and responses to family violence into my work. It is essential to raise awareness, so that victims can be empowered to recognise family violence and so that the community calls out perpetrators.

A key aim of your family violence training program is to assist GPs in being able to identify survivor women who attend general practice – that identification not always being straightforward. According to Professor Hegarty, Safer Families Centre of Research Excellence Director, 'training is an important component of upskilling in this area for GPs'. She also warns that "At least one in 10 women attending general practice will have experienced DFV, thus a full-time GP may be seeing up to five survivor women per week, who may not all be identified by GP's." I hope your College will keep me informed of your progress in this crucial area.

May I conclude by congratulating all the New Fellows in Tasmania here today. We look forward to chatting to you during the reception.

Thank you. David ...

[invites Dr Jackson to respond]

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www1.racgp.org.au/news/clinical/new-tailored-family-violence-training-for-primary>