

**DIABETES TASMANIA**  
**PRESENTATION OF KELLION VICTORY MEDALS 2022**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA,**  
**DRAWING ROOM, FRIDAY 15 JULY 2022**

Good morning. As Patron of Diabetes Tasmania, it is a special pleasure to welcome you all to Government House to raise awareness of National Diabetes week. Importantly, I shall present a number of Kellion Victory Medals to people who have had diabetes for 50 years or more and also present a research award.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

I acknowledge amongst us:

- Honourable Elise Archer MP
- Mr David O'Byrne MP
- Senator Catryna Bilyk
- Caroline Wells, CEO Diabetes Tasmania

The aim of National Diabetes Awareness week is to highlight growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes. This week also promotes the importance of collective action in meeting the diabetes critical global health challenge. I recognise that over 30,000 people are living with this condition in Tasmania.<sup>1</sup> This continues to be a major health concern.

National Diabetes Week this year is focused on the mental and emotional impacts of living with diabetes. Being diagnosed, living with the disease and its constant management, have impacts on emotional and mental wellbeing.

Diabetes requires daily self-care and, if complications develop, diabetes can have profound impacts on quality of life and life expectancy. While there is currently no cure for diabetes, it is possible to live an enjoyable life by learning about the condition and effectively managing it.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Media release: End diabetes stigma this National Diabetes Week - Diabetes Tasmania, accessed 17 November 2021.](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/about-diabetes/what-is-diabetes/> accessed 7 July 22

Research conducted by our Australian Centre for Behavioural Research in Diabetes found that four out of five people living with diabetes have experienced stigma at some point.

This may lead to people not sharing their diagnosis with others, not getting the help and support they need, or doing what they need to do each day to learn and manage their diabetes and stay well.

We know that, as a result of research, the life expectancy of people diagnosed with diabetes has increased significantly in the last 50 years. Research is also the key to finding a cure and, in the interim, identifying better ways to manage the impact of diabetes. We shall shortly hear about research being undertaken by Dr Dino Premilovac at our University of Tasmania.

As part of its encouragement program, Diabetes Tasmania and other states and territories, present annual Kellion Victory Medals to people who have lived with diabetes for more than 50 years. In November last year, I had the privilege to make presentations on behalf of Diabetes Tasmania. I am very pleased to be able to do so again.

The Kellion Victory Medal is a personal congratulatory recognition to recipients who have successfully lived a long life with diabetes. It is also a public acknowledgement that it is possible to live a long, happy and productive life with diabetes. These celebrations also include the families of those who live with diabetes, for it is a condition that affects them too. In recognition of that fact, Kellion Supporters' Certificates will also be awarded today.

As Patron of Diabetes Australia in Tasmania, I congratulate those who receive awards today. May I recognise and thank the many volunteers and supporters of Diabetes Tasmania for the valuable and valued job you do to support and encourage all those in our State who live with diabetes.

Thank you.