

**HOCKEY TASMANIA**  
**OPENING OF THE 2022 SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA**  
**16 YEARS AND UNDER HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**TASMANIAN HOCKEY CENTRE, SUNDAY 31 JULY 2022**

Good morning everyone and welcome to Field 1 of the Tasmanian Hockey Centre for the opening of the 2022 School Sport Australia 16 and Under Hockey Championships.

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. 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.

First, my congratulations to you all for being selected to represent your States or Territory at these Championships. You will all no doubt be very excited to participate, given that the tournament has not been held since 2019, due to Covid 19 restrictions. This is also a pathway for you to potentially be selected for a national team, or even as a flag bearer, as was our own Eddie Ockenden for the opening of the Commonwealth Games.

I am especially pleased to be joining you for these Championships. I am a hockey fan and played A Grade and represented Tasmania at our National Championships at junior and senior levels.

I am told that the School Sport program dates back to the 1960s. The last time the under 16s Championships were held in Tasmania was in 2013. It is particularly exciting for Tasmanian players to perform in front of a home crowd, which will no doubt give them a boost.

It is wonderful that both fields are being live streamed on all competition days, so there will be an opportunity for those who cannot attend in person to watch and enjoy these competition games.

I encourage you all to enjoy your time in Tasmania in the coming week. I was pleased to see in your program that you will have an education day with a visit to the Bonorong Wildlife Centre. We are very proud of the work done at the Centre helping injured and sick native animals. Having recently visited

Bonorong, I can assure you that you will all enjoy the opportunity to get close with some of the animals there.

At these Championships, you will, of course, play to the best of your abilities. Enjoy the time testing yourselves individually and as teams. I hope you have many memorable experiences competing and develop many new friendships. I wish all teams every success in this year's Championships.

Regardless of your results here, you are all winners by your selection to represent your state or territory.

I wish to extend my thanks to all of the organisers from School Sport Australia and Hockey Tasmania, as well as the many coaches, officials and umpires. Without your support the Championships could not go ahead.

It is now my pleasure to declare the 2022 School Sport Australia 16 and Under Hockey Championships officially open and wish you all every success.

Thank you.