

TASMANIAN PALLIATIVE CARE AWARDS 2022
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 9 AUGUST 2022

[Vice-Regal Salute is played]

Please be seated.

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to the sixth annual Tasmanian Palliative Care Awards.

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.

May I acknowledge among us:

- Sally Faulkner, Chair, and the Board members Palliative Care Tasmania
- CEO Colleen Johnstone and staff members Palliative Care Tasmania
- Anita Dow, Shadow Minister for Health and former palliative care nurse
- Daniel Hulme representing Senator Catryna Bilyk
- Alderman Sharyn Von Bertouch representing the City of Clarence
- Sonj Hall, Deputy Secretary Department of Health
- Category sponsors
- and our gathering of wonderful finalists.

As the Patron of Palliative Care Tasmania, I was honoured to launch this year's nomination process in May, at the start of Palliative Care Week 2022.

I noted then that the theme of the Week was “It’s Your Right”: highlighting that palliative care is a universal human right, explicitly recognised within the human right to health.

I also noted a second message of encouragement to the Tasmanian community to talk about the important issues surrounding death and dying.

These two key messages I have no doubt are conveyed through these Awards: through the publicity attaching to the Awards; through the exceptional professionalism and dedication of the finalists, summarised in the Awards booklet; and, through the support of all the Award category corporate sponsors.

These Awards are particularly significant as they incorporate the national “Dying to Know Day”.

May I also note another measure of the increasing public awareness of the palliative care sector across our island. This year, I believe you have received your highest number of nominations to date.

This gave the judging panel of peers a challenge and they had, I quote, “robust deliberations and difficult decisions”!¹

May I, as Patron, thank the judging panel on our behalf. I understand that your deliberations were based on overall merit, excellence and contribution. These attributes are hallmarks of the sector. I know I speak for all of us in saying that this is a most challenging form of work, it is undertaken with great commitment across our State, in all areas and levels of palliative care.

This awards evening celebrates and thanks everyone in the sector. All our finalists are exemplars and worthy representatives of Palliative Care Tasmania.

Thank you all and let us get started with the busy and exciting ceremony ahead of us.

Thank you. David ...

[Invites CEO Colleen Johnstone to the stage to speak and then MC the presentations]

¹ [And the finalist are.. – Palliative Care Tasmania \(palliacaretas.org.au\)](https://www.palliacaretas.org.au), accessed 3 August 2022.