

**WELCOME HOME AND PRESENTATION OF AUSTRALIAN SPORTS
MEDALS TO TASMANIAN MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN
2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES TEAM
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2022**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this investiture ceremony at Government House.

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

May I acknowledge the Honourable Nic Street MP, Minister for Sport and Recreation.

First of all, may I welcome each of you all back from the recent Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham in England. May I acknowledge that during the pandemic it was very difficult for you to attend sporting events. We know that the pandemic disrupted your training and competitions, and certainly impacted many athletes.

For some of you, these were your inaugural Games. Whether these were your inaugural or subsequent selection to compete, to be selected to represent your Country in a sporting endeavour is evidence of your abilities, training and perseverance. I congratulate all of you for your efforts.

We shall hear shortly from Commonwealth Games Australia representative Marlene Elliot. After her address, I shall present our returned athletes with the Australian Sports Medal.

Our Australian Honours System was founded in 1975 by the creation of the Order of Australia. The Order is designed to recognise excellence, achievement or meritorious service by individual citizens.

The Australian Sports Medal was a commemorative medal awarded in the year 2000. This was the year of the Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games. These medals were awarded to those who had contributed to sporting excellence in Australia. The medal recognised the efforts of a range of Australians. It was not only for competitors, including former competitors, but also for coaches, sport scientists, office holders, and those who maintained sporting facilities and services.

Subsequently, in December 2020 amended Regulations were approved and gazetted, allowing Australians who participated as official members of an Australian national team at declared international multi-sport events since 2018, to receive recognition with a medal.

The Australian Sports Medal alignment with an international event provides a good connection point for a broad range of sporting abilities, capacity, achievement, contribution and participation.¹

May I mention that the Australian Sports Medal design symbolises Australian sport and features the stars of the Southern Cross and lines depicting the athletics track at Stadium Australia, Sydney Olympic Park. Our Australian Sports Medal is made of nickel silver and is a circular shape. On the obverse side are lines representing an athletics track with the Southern Cross located above. The Southern Cross, alternate running lanes and the outer rim are raised.

Congratulations again to you all on your participation in the Commonwealth Games this year.

Official Secretary ...

¹ https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-07/Australian%20Sports%20Medal%20Guidelines_0.pdf
accessed 14 September 22