

**CANCER COUNCIL TASMANIA RELAY FOR LIFE HUON VALLEY
OPENING REMARKS
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HUONVILLE, SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER 2022**

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to another year of this wonderful annual relay event hosted by Cancer Council Tasmania. It is a shame that the weather has been so unkind and that we have had to move to this indoor facility of the PCYC, but great that we are still able to participate in the Relay for Life.

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 and recognise their continued connection to land, sea, and 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 also acknowledge Penny Egan, CEO Cancer Council Tasmania, and Zoe Vandervelde, Fundraiser and Event Organiser Cancer Council. I acknowledge and thank Relay for Life Joint Committee Chairs, Denise Foggo and Phil Lorkin, and their committee members Vicki Royer, Kent Wells, Dale Hayers, Lisa Plohl.

May I ask you for a big round of applause for all the hardworking and committed staff and volunteers of Cancer Council Tasmania! *[applause]*

Thank you also to the Cygnet Singers for their rendition of the National Anthem.

This is the 22nd year of the Relay for Life operating in Tasmania. It is a very important fundraising event. Approximately 90% of all funding for the Cancer Council of Tasmania comes from fundraising activities. Our Council's work benefits the entire community but especially those 10 Tasmanians who every day are diagnosed with cancer.

The Huon Valley Relay for Life commenced in 2011 and this year marks its seventh run. Even in that short time, more than \$280,000 has been raised from this event to support the work of the Cancer Council.

This Relay is the first of three ceremonies that will occur over the next 20 hours: Celebration, Remember and Fight Back.

- Celebration starts the event to recognise and applaud the bravery of cancer survivors and their carers who walk the first lap of this Relay;
- Remember is held in the evening when we remember our loved ones, family and friends we have lost to cancer;
- Fight Back is held on Sunday morning, when we make a pledge to FIGHT BACK and do something in our own lives that will make a difference in our personal fight against this disease.

It is my privilege to be your Patron of such a worthy organisation. The Council has a crucial role in bringing comfort, advice and friendship to cancer sufferers at every stage of their journey with the various forms of the disease.

I am also honoured to have been invited to be with you today to open and participate in your Huon Valley Relay for Life.

Now, to get things started. I wish you all the best on your walks. Thank you again for your wonderful fundraising efforts and all you do for the Cancer Council of Tasmania.

Thank you.