

**CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY TASMANIA
HOBART GRADUATION CEREMONY 2022
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
STANLEY BURBURY THEATRE, SANDY BAY
TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2022**

Good afternoon everyone and thank you very much for inviting me to participate in this 2022 Children's University Tasmania Graduation Ceremony.

Thank you, Michael Garrad from Huonville High School, for your welcome remarks.

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 enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters. 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.

I would like to acknowledge:

- Professor Natalie Brown
- Dr Becky Shelley and other members of the Peter Underwood Centre and Children's University
- Tanya Brooks-Cooper, Manager, Communities for Children
- Most importantly, I acknowledge each and all the students who are graduating today and their families.

As we celebrate the graduation of students enrolled in our Children's University program, may we reflect on the reasons why the program is so important, to the individuals and to our society.

Education is transformative. Education is the foundation of a successful fulfilling life. Research shows consistently that participation in learning outside the traditional classroom, and exposure to a diversity of learning experience, enhances academic achievement.

Our Children's University is administered by the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment. The Children's University is a partnership between schools and other providers to encourage an appreciation and love of lifelong learning. There are Learning Destinations across our State and in many interest areas, from sports clubs to art galleries, wildlife centres to museums, with both online and face-to-face delivery. There are also resources that can be used at home.

Enrolment is open to young people between the ages of 7 and 14. They are issued with a Passport to Learning to record their achievements. The year ends with graduation ceremonies like this one and certificates are presented to recognise achievements.

This may be the first time that many of you have come to the University of Tasmania. We hope that it will not be the last and that you continue on your education pathway. May I also thank all the parents who have supported their children in their enrolments.

May I also congratulate Professor Kitty te Riele and all her team, including Paula Johnson, for your work to continue to provide the program.

It now gives me great pleasure to be able to present certificates to graduates of the Children's University. Congratulations to each and every one of you and to your families.