

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE GRANTS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Good morning. May I warmly welcome you to Government House for this Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards presentations for 2022.

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 and 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 acknowledge among us:

- Associate Professor Francine Douce, Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer and Committee Chair;
- Michelle Searle, representing Kathrine Morgan-Wicks, Secretary Department of Health
- Hospitals North representatives Helen Bryan and Bianca Jack
- Linda Paic, TPT Wealth
- I also welcome all the Florence Nightingale Committee members.

As your Patron, I am once again very pleased to be hosting the announcement of this year's Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards recipients.

The Committee was established in the 1950s. The grants provide Tasmanian registered nurses with the financial opportunity through study grants, to undertake post-graduate studies¹.

¹ nursesgrantsandawards.com/about-us/

The main source of funding for these grants has been through the St John's Hospital Association and generous donations from Tasmanian nurses and the general public.

Your Committee promotes these important grants with applications opening annually on 12 May, International Nurses Day. Significantly, this is also the anniversary date of the birth of Florence Nightingale, in 1820.

The global COVID-19 pandemic certainly raised the profile of nurses and midwives, as you all demonstrated the vital role you play in supporting the health and wellbeing in our communities.

The Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards recognise the achievement and contribution of nurses and midwives, and their commitment to professional excellence.

Scholarships are available every year to enable recipients to undertake postgraduate study. The following two grants² are being awarded for 2022:

First, *The Leonie Sidebottom Study Grant*.

Leonie Sidebottom was the first Registrar of Nurses in Tasmania. Leonie held her position for 12 years, retiring in 1963. She applied the Nurses Registration Act in 1952 which set up the nurses' registration system in Tasmania. The 2022 grant award is valued at \$3 000.

Second, *The Robyn Whitworth Study Grant*.

Robyn Whitworth was a community health nurse and supervisor on the North-West Coast. She was one of the first palliative care nurses appointed in the community. After her untimely death, her nursing colleagues started a fund to provide a grant for Tasmanian nurses in her name. The 2022 grant award is valued at \$2 000.

Now, may we proceed with the presentations.

David ...

[David introduces Francine Douce to provide details and present the two recipients]

² www.nursesgrantsandawards.com/our-grants-awards/