

**GOVERNMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING INTERNATIONAL
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2022**

Good evening and welcome to this reception for International Student Ambassadors studying in Tasmania through the Government Education and Training International program.

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 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.

May I acknowledge among us:

- Secretary for Department for Education, Children and Young People, Tim Bullard;
- CEO of TasTAFE, Grant Dreher;
- Director of Study Tasmania and Migration Tasmania, Renee Woodhouse;
- City of Hobart Student Ambassador Coordinator, Anna Alomes;
- and other guests from DECYP, Government Schools, TasTAFE and our community organisations who are committed to upholding the quality of Tasmania's Government education and training program to international students.

It is a pleasure to have you all here at Government House. I know that you are studying in Tasmania, away from your home countries.

May I congratulate our Department for Education, Children and Young People for continuing with this initiative, not least because of the great value of cross-cultural learning experiences. As we all know, it is very important for all of us to appreciate and be respectful of the variety of cultures in our modern world.

Given that you are all here in Tasmania engaged in formal study, I thought I would tell you a little about my role as Governor of this State.

My appointment as Governor was made by the Tasmanian Premier, who consults with some of his parliamentary colleagues and others. I am expected to be an independent person with no political affiliations while in office, as Governor.

This is important because my principal role as Governor is to represent all Tasmanians, no matter what their political preferences might be.

May I mention my three broad roles.

First, I have a legal and constitutional role. Tasmania's *Constitution Act 1934* states that "The Governor and the Legislative Council and House of Assembly shall together constitute the Parliament of Tasmania." This means that the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council together debate and then pass a Bill. I sign that Bill in order for it to become legally enforceable as an Act of the Parliament of Tasmania.

I also meet with the Premier and the Cabinet Ministers regularly. They keep me fully aware of their work on what is known as delegated legislation: these are rules and regulations that do not have to be debated in the House and the Council.

As Governor, I also have the authority to make a ruling if the Parliament becomes unworkable. This could happen if the Government loses its majority, or if an election fails to produce a majority for any one party. This authority is called a Reserve Power and is rarely required, which is a sign of the health of our democracy.

Secondly, I have ceremonial duties. For example, I deliver speeches at important ceremonial events, such as our annual Anzac Day. I also invest Tasmanians with medals each year to recognise their fine service to our community.

Thirdly, I also have a very busy community role. This is an important part of my work – meeting and engaging with Tasmanians from all walks of life. Your being here today is an example of my community role.

As another example of my community role: on Sunday, Don and I and some Government House staff travelled on an official visit to the west coast of Tasmania for three days. This is one of the 29 Council visits around Tasmania I make during my five-year term as Governor.

So, I hope that gives you an idea about my role as Governor.

Now together with the Secretary of our Department of Education and Training, Tim Bullard, I look forward to presenting you with your Certificates of Appreciation.

May I also conclude by thanking Kathryn Wakefield and TasTAFE and college and City of Hobart colleagues for your great work in fostering the program.

Thank you.

Paula ... [invites Tim Bullard to respond]