

**THE SMITH FAMILY CENTENARY
AND GREAT BIG THANK YOU RECEPTION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE
5.30 PM WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2022**

Thank you very much, Aunty Judith-Rose Thomas. [delivered Welcome to Country]

May I add my welcome to this Centenary and Great Big Thank You reception for The Smith Family. This is an historic occasion for one of Australia's most significant national charities, which has supported many thousands of children over the last century.

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 welcome and acknowledge among us:

- Doug Taylor, The Smith Family CEO
- Lesley Mackay, General Manager Tasmania, The Smith Family
- Callum Ion, University of Tasmania Student Speaker
- Pianist Sheng-Yuan Lynch and Daphne Lynch.

As David has mentioned, we shall soon be hearing from Doug, Callum and Lesley, followed by Sheng-Yuan's performance. I shall therefore be brief in my remarks.

The measure of support for The Smith Family is so significant that, if I were to name the corporations, state and local administrations, and other entities represented here this evening, I would have to read out virtually the whole of our guest list!

So, it is no wonder that this event is officially called The Great Big Thank You reception. May Don and I add our welcome to each and every one of you for your valuable and cherished support for The Smith Family.

As this is your centenary celebration, may I refer to The *Sydney Mail* report of your 1922 founding in that city, and I quote:

“A Fine Institution. ... this particular [Smith] Family is one of 'Joy Spreaders' ...

“The objects of the family are to maintain throughout the year the spirit of True Charity ... and to maintain a continuous campaign of good cheer and goodwill, to brighten the lives of the afflicted, the distressed, the sick, and the needy, and restore confidence in wounded minds ... There are numberless establishments containing children which the public generally hear little or nothing of, but the Smith Family finds them out and goes to them.”¹

End of quote.

Our Hobart *Mercury* newspaper in 1932 described the founding this way:

“A colourful Sydney organisation is now celebrating its tenth anniversary. It is known as the Smith Family, Joy Spreaders Unlimited. Ten years ago a small group of business men got together to furnish Christmas cheer to poor children whose parents were not in a position to provide adequately for them. Their effort was so successful and inspiring, and they received such support from well-wishers of their objective, that they made the movement permanent, established an office in the city, and developed and expanded their admirable work ...

“A feature of the operations of the Smith Family is that no one knows who they are. There is no list of donors or helpers to be published. They work without any

¹ Sydney Mail, Wednesday 7 May 1924, page 44.

kind of reward other than the glow of making people happy, and not even a gleam of limelight is allowed to shine on their personnel..."²

One hundred years on, the Purpose of The Smith Family is very direct, to maintain your "spirit of True Charity". You continue your aim, quote "To overcome educational inequality caused by poverty."³

The Smith Family is a truly outstanding and treasured Australian charity and loved organisation and I now invite your CEO to address us.

Thank you.

David ...

² *Mercury*, Friday 9 December 1932, page 8.

³ [About Us | Australian Children's Charity \(thesmithfamily.com.au\)](https://thesmithfamily.com.au), accessed 8 November 2022.