

**CALVARY HEALTH CARE TASMANIA
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023**

[Vice-Regal Salute is played]

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the 21st anniversary of the volunteer program of Calvary Health Care Tasmania.

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 continued connection to land, sea, and waters. I acknowledge the impacts of colonisation upon our First People and commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture and history.

I would like to acknowledge members of the Calvary Executive, including General Manager Marcus DiMartino, and current and former volunteers.

May I in opening declare my Lenah Valley connection. For many years, until I was appointed Governor, Don and I lived on Augusta Road and very near the hospital, which was very handy for emergency visits with young children.

I understand that, last year, plans were made for you to celebrate your milestone 20th anniversary of the volunteer program. Covid prevented that. Well, this 21st anniversary is the more cause to celebrate. Also, hopefully we have passed the worst of that pandemic and its variants.

As health care volunteers, you all know of the additional strains that were placed on our healthcare personnel everywhere. So, I thank each of you for your exceptional efforts over these past few years, as staff members and volunteers. May I also thank your family and friends for their support for you.

To the many Little Company of Mary Health Care¹ volunteers here this evening, your assistance to Calvary patients, clients and residents is invaluable. Their lives are the richer from the time that you are with them and care for them. You give companionship, prepare meals, organise arts and crafts, outings, and entertainments. You organise personal care such as hairdressing. And you also organise Holy Communion.

Volunteers also support and assist the Calvary staff with the multitude of tasks associated with all the daily running of your hospital.

I was particularly touched with the phrase that I have read, that volunteers “bring the Spirit of Calvary to the bedside in many ways.”²

May I conclude my brief remarks by noting that I am privileged to support many patronages, as Governor, in my community role. Volunteering Tasmania embodies the community spirit of Tasmanians. Each year, I am part of the annual Volunteering Tasmania awards. The stories of our volunteers in all parts of our island state, are truly uplifting.

As Calvary volunteers, you are an integral part of our volunteer community, who give of their time without thought of reward. You care for others without seeking reward, and give with reliability, tact, empathy, and responsibility. You also give sensitively and compassionately when encountering grief, loss and bereavement.

Calvary volunteers and staff, congratulations again to you all on your 21st anniversary of your volunteer program.

Thank you. David –

[invites CHCT Manager to respond briefly, after which Saxon O’Donnell sings]

¹ [Volunteers - Calvary Health Care \(calvarycare.org.au\)](http://calvarycare.org.au), accessed 17 February 2023.

² “Calvary Volunteers Celebrate 21 Years” document, page 1 last two lines.