

**CANCER COUNCIL TASMANIA RELAY FOR LIFE HOBART 2023**  
**OPENING REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**DOMAIN ATHLETICS CENTRE, HOBART, SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2023**

Good afternoon, everyone and welcome to another year of this significant annual event hosted by Cancer Council Tasmania.

I too 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.

Since the Relay for Life began in the United States in 1985, this Relay event has become the largest fundraising event for cancer in the world.

Our Cancer Council Tasmania's Relay for Life has been operating for more than 20 years. In that time more than 100,000 Relay for Life participants have raised some \$15 million, which stays in Tasmania to support Tasmanians. This Relay for Life is our Cancer Council's largest fundraiser and is one of five events scheduled this year.

This weekend Relay provides an opportunity for our community for a celebration to recognise and applaud the bravery of those who have overcome cancer and their carers, who will walk the first lap.<sup>1</sup> Tonight, at our Luminary Ceremony we shall reflect and remember those loved ones, family and friends we have lost to cancer. The impact of cancer on our families cannot be overstated. Tomorrow, we make a pledge to fight back and do something that will make a difference in our fight against the disease.<sup>2</sup>

Our Cancer Council provides high quality support services for people with cancer, their families, carers and friends and also invests in cancer prevention programs and educates our community about lifestyle factors that can decrease cancer risk. Our Council also provides a respected voice for the needs of people affected by cancer.

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<sup>1</sup> Correspondence between ADC Paula Chatwood and Michelle Gates, dated 17 March 2023

<sup>2</sup> Correspondence between ADC Paula Chatwood and Michelle Gates, dated 17 March 2023

On behalf of our grateful Tasmanian community, may I take this opportunity to thank Cancer Council Tasmania for your dedication and work over decades in Tasmania and that it continues to do. My Congratulations to CEO, Penny Egan, and her dedicated team and volunteers across our State.

Congratulations also to all families and friends for your commitment to support all those on their individual cancer journeys and for raising valuable funds for the Cancer Council to continue its important work.

It now gives me great pleasure to declare the 2023 Cancer Council Tasmania Relay for Life in Hobart officially open. Don and I look forward to joining you for a few laps.

Thank you.