

**HOBART WOMEN'S SHELTER
WOMEN'S HOUSING WORKING MEETING
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 20 MARCH 2023**

Good afternoon. I warmly welcome you all to the second Women's Housing Working Meeting in support of the Hobart Women's Shelter.

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

I shall be brief in my remarks as we have a number of distinguished speakers to follow, to discuss in detail aspects of the complex and troubling social issue necessitating temporary shelter for women and children in and around our city. As active participants, you are encouraged to contribute later, when Cate Sumner facilitates the Q and A after the panel session.

At the inaugural Government House Working Meeting just over a year ago, the key discussion areas were perspectives on innovative funding, design and planning for women's housing needs.¹

There was then, and continues to be, urgency in improving ways of supporting vulnerable people who are victims of family violence in particular; and there are other causes such as redundancy, lack of home ownership, and relationship breakdowns.

Statistics confirm the high numbers of women and children seeking emergency accommodation, and the great pressure on the Hobart Women's Shelter, especially in having to turn away so many seeking help.

¹ HE remarks, Tuesday 8 February 2022, page 1 2nd last para.

But much has also been achieved in this last year and that is cause for genuine thanks to all involved – HWS staff and volunteers, and the numerous organisations providing services and funding – including Core Collective, St Joseph’s Affordable Homes, Just Healthy Families, the Tasmanian Community Fund, and the Kingborough Council.

You will hear about these forms of support this afternoon and about the excellent work done by HWS arising out of that first meeting. It is a development that has been part of your philosophy and commitment for many years now. I commend your active interactions with stakeholders at local, state and federal levels.

Having said that, and given you were founded in 1974, next year will be your fiftieth anniversary, and what an opportunity that might provide for a significant third meeting here.

But before then, we are very much looking forward to hosting a fundraising evening here for our Hobart Women’s Shelter. It will take place in this Ball Room on the evening of Wednesday 7th June, with a musical performance and substantial supper.

I’ll hand over to you now, Janet. [Saunders, HWS CEO]

Thank you. [HE to seat with ADC]