

**PALLIATIVE CARE TASMANIA
LAUNCH OF NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK 2023
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 22 MAY 2023**

Good morning. I warmly welcome you all to our Government House launch of National Palliative Care Week 2023.

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.

May I acknowledge among us:

- Senator Catryna Bilyk
- Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP
- Sally Faulkner, Palliative Care Tasmania Board Chair, and Board colleagues and,
- Venéy Hiller, Acting CEO.

As Patron of Palliative Care Tasmania, I am honoured to officially launch this year's National Palliative Care Week and the Tasmanian Palliative Care Awards, which will be held here in August.

This year's theme for National Palliative Care Week is "Matters of Life and Death". This week encourages us all to put this subject "front and centre in Australia's consciousness," and to acknowledge the "people at the heart of quality palliative care."¹

¹ [National Palliative Care Week 2023 – 'Matters of Life and Death' - Palliative Care Australia](#), accessed 19 May 2023.

During this week in Tasmania, Palliative Care Tasmania will host events across our State to raise awareness and to promote conversations about palliative care.²

The Palliative Care Awards importantly recognise and honour palliative care staff, volunteers and carers, who undertake the often challenging and significant work of supporting individuals living with a life limiting illness and also their families. These awards give us the opportunity to thank you and share our appreciation for your work in palliative care and the quality of life it delivers.

These awards also celebrate your exceptional work in our community, as part of a large and vibrant network of dedicated individuals and organisations, that includes GPs, community nursing and community services, hospital personnel, pharmacists, allied health professionals, and more. We are very much looking forward to the awards in August.

In conclusion, I am delighted to officially launch both National Palliative Care Week and the 2023 Tasmanian Palliative Care Awards.

Thank you.

David ... [invites Venéy Hiller to respond]