

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BEACON FOUNDATION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, BALL ROOM, THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2023**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to Government House to celebrate the success of the Beacon Foundation and to mark your 35th anniversary.

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.

Since its establishment in 1988, the Beacon Foundation has played an instrumental role in shaping the lives of countless young people. Your Foundation has empowered them and helped them to navigate the transition from school to meaningful employment, both within our state and across our nation.¹

Challenges and barriers exist for young people to make this education to employment transition, especially those from disadvantaged areas.

Australia wide, Beacon has targeted students in disadvantaged communities. By fostering partnerships between schools, communities and local industry, Beacon has bridged the gap between education and employment, ensuring that our students are well prepared for the challenges and for the opportunities that may lie ahead.

I note that currently Beacon delivers High Impact Programs, 'Prepare', 'Polish', and 'Perform.' In addition, you have a growth industry program for students from years 7 to 12 in 82 schools across Australia. Students are provided with valuable insights into a multitude of industries. They are connected with

¹ <https://beaconfoundation.org.au/about-beacon/>

mentors and given work experience opportunities. This has helped young people make informed decisions about their future careers.²

In this rapidly evolving world, Beacon has adapted by embracing technology, fostering innovation, and leveraging partnerships to create innovative programs for the jobs of the future.

I was interested to learn of the new pilot program, the 'Beacon Career Readiness Program', which was delivered in two schools this year. The program is aimed at making students aware of their strengths and weaknesses, giving them the ability to explore relevant careers, to organise and coordinate work-experience opportunities and finally to experience the work.³

This program was a response to COVID and recognises the constraints placed upon teachers and facilitators in a post-COVID world. It has been well received.

Of note, Beacon was invited to present a pilot program paper at the OECD 2023 Disrupted Futures Conference in Paris earlier this month. This is a most impressive achievement and a testament to your success.⁴

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of your team. I extend my gratitude and congratulations to the founders, Board members, staff, volunteers, and partners who have worked hard to make the Beacon what it is today.

I would also like to acknowledge the role of the Tasmanian community in supporting you.

In conclusion, as Patron, I extend my warmest congratulations on your 35th anniversary.

Thank you... David

² <https://beaconfoundation.org.au/beacon-short-courses/>

³ <https://beaconfoundation.org.au/programs/>

⁴ <https://www.oecd.org/education/career-readiness/conferences-webinars/disrupted-futures-2023.htm>