

**KING'S BIRTHDAY RECEPTION IN SUPPORT OF THE
HOBART WOMEN'S SHELTER
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2023**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to this reception to support the work 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 continued connection to land, sea and waters.

I am delighted to be with so many of you who are here tonight to show your support for the important work of our Hobart Women's Shelter.

For her 90th birthday in 2016, the late Queen Elizabeth decided that her celebrations should be used to raise funds for worthy charities around the world. At that time, we hosted a Gala Ball here at Government House, and ever since have held receptions around the time of the Sovereign's official birthday to fundraise for various causes.

This is the first time that we have celebrated the birthday of His Majesty King Charles III, proclaimed as Sovereign in this room on 11 September 2022.

As you may all know, last month I represented our State by attending the Coronation Ceremony of King Charles at Westminster Abbey in London. Don and I also attended functions with the Lord Mayor of the City of London; and with the Minister of State Indo-Pacific at the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. I also attended an evening reception for foreign guests at Buckingham Palace, and a reception and Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle. Finally, I attended a private Audience with The King.

It is therefore appropriate that we host a fundraising event again, this year for the first time on the birthday of King Charles, to provide support to our Hobart Women's Shelter.

Formed in 1974, our shelter is the second oldest operating Women's Shelter in Australia. The shelter is independent, not-for-profit and offers advocacy support for women and children experiencing family violence and/or homelessness and provides medium-term accommodation for families.

This is an essential service, but more support is needed. Between 2020 and 2022, around 80% of all women attempting to access services at the Shelter were turned away. That amounts to more than 1800 women and children left with nowhere to go.

Tonight is our opportunity to help. All ticket sale proceeds will go to the Hobart Women's Shelter. Auctions later this evening will give you an opportunity to bid on a number of items. You may also be aware of the ongoing 'buy a brick' campaign, where donations are directed to build more accommodation.

Government House has had a long association with the Hobart Women's Shelter and we have provided food and cooking lessons for some time. Also, our Community Garden produce has been regularly donated to the Women's Shelter, as well as other charities throughout Tasmania.

Shortly, you will hear from Women's Shelter CEO Janet Saunders. We shall then be treated to a performance by musicians Ingrid Leibbrandt, Allison Farrow and Johanna Selleck.

When their performance has concluded, we shall enjoy supper before returning to the Ball Room for dessert and for the auctions.

May I thank you all for your support for our Hobart Women's Shelter and acknowledge the work that is being done to achieve their vision of a safe and inclusive community free from homelessness, violence, inequality, and injustice.

David ...