

**AFTERNOON TEA TO MARK THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
JIREH HOUSE ASSOCIATION INC
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 5 JUNE 2023**

Good afternoon, everyone. It gives me great pleasure to host you at Government House and to share with you in the celebration of 40 years of Jireh House.

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.

The celebration of 40 years of operation is a significant milestone for any organisation. Jireh House over these 40 years has been a haven for vulnerable women and children, providing a safe, caring environment for them, while they transition their living arrangements.

Jireh House began when a need was identified by people, who then did something to help others in their community. Forty years ago, Jireh House started out with a four-bedroom residential home to provide services, and sadly has had to expand over the years to now operate some 16 properties and employ 24 staff.

Your mission is “to empower women and children to move towards quality of life, free from all forms of abuse”. To fulfill that mission, Jireh House provides a welcoming and supportive crisis accommodation service. You have been described as being like a little neighbourhood; a place to connect with various support services and to enable women and children to have information to make decisions about what comes next.

Committed staff are on site 24 hours a day, and provide support to access services such as housing, financial counselling, medical care, transport and legal services.

Of course, Jireh House could not operate without the support, kindness and generosity of others. Our Federal and State Governments provide funding. However, there are many individuals, churches, businesses and other organisations that support your work. To all who support Jireh House financially, as volunteers or with in-kind donations, I say thank you.

Shortly you will hear from founding member Marianne Kuilenburg about some stories of staff and clients regarding the early days of Jireh House operation and how things have changed. Marianne will be followed by your Practice Manager Sally Herwynen with an update on your strategic plan.

I hope you all enjoy this afternoon tea. I look forward to speaking with you. I understand that you will also be going on a tour of our State Rooms after we have had refreshments. Please enjoy your visit and take pictures if you so desire.

Thank you.