

**HOCKEY TASMANIA
RECEPTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE
2023 HOCKEY AUSTRALIA MEN'S UNDER 18 CHAMPIONS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 21 AUGUST 2023**

Good evening everyone and a very warm welcome to this reception to acknowledge our Tasmanian Men's Under 18 Hockey team, as Hockey Australia Competition Champions for 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 continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

First, my congratulations to you all on your selection to represent our State of Tasmania at the Championships. You were, no doubt, very excited, along with 11 other teams from around Australia, to participate and compete in the 2023 Championships here in Hobart.

I can understand how you must have felt. I am a hockey fan and represented Tasmania. In 1980, our State Women's team reached the national final, here in Hobart. We didn't win the final though. Queensland beat us on penalty strokes, an awful way to lose!

Participation in sport is a way to test yourselves, both individually and as a team. Resilience and self-discipline are two major benefits from participation in team sports. But the exhilaration of winning the game cannot be easily replicated.

You not only won games but are our National Champions. That is a very significant achievement. I know from your fellow hockey players and all Tasmanians that we are proud of your achievements.

There are some notable statistics to come out of these Championships. Queensland Maroon actually scored more goals than you in the competition.

That suggests to me that you were more strategic in the way you approached, played and won your matches. The fact that three of the top ten individual goal scorers were in our Tasmanian team speaks volumes about the skill and determination of you all, as a team.

I am very pleased to be able to share in your success and the joy of your families and many supporters by hosting you all here tonight. Don and I look forward to speaking with you. Please take the opportunity to look through our beautiful State Rooms that will be opened for you.

Congratulations again to our 2023 Hockey Australia Men's Under 18 Champions. We are all proud of you. Please enjoy your time here tonight.

Thank you.