

TASMANIAN PALLIATIVE CARE AWARDS 2023
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 8 AUGUST 2023

[Vice-Regal Salute is played]

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to our 2023 Tasmanian Palliative Care Awards.

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.

Three months ago, in May during National Palliative Care Week, we launched these Awards in this Ball Room.

At that launch, we were powerfully reminded of the importance of your work. You are a key deliverer of “Matters of Life and Death”¹. You have the exceptional ability to put this essential subject “front and centre in Australia’s consciousness.”²

As Patron of Palliative Care Tasmania, I am again honoured to be officiating today.

These Awards recognise and celebrate the various professions associated with palliative care.

These Awards also recognise and celebrate all palliative care workers, volunteers, and your programs, for the intimate, dignified and life-affirming contribution each of you provides to our Tasmanian community.

¹ The theme of National Palliative Care Week 2023.

² Description of the theme.

I congratulate all the finalists, as highly meritorious representatives of various palliative care sectors. I also thank the many individuals who make up the sector.

We know that with Australia's growing ageing population, the demand for palliative care and end-of-life care is likely to rise substantially.

In respect of Tasmania, I have read that in public hospitals, Tasmania in 2020-21 recorded the highest rate of palliative-care related hospitalisations, 41 per 10,000 population, against the lowest – Western Australia, 19 per 10,000 population. That is a significant difference.³

The reasons for this difference are numerous and complex. However, it means that your sector is growing; and I understand will grow by well over 30 per cent over the next ten years.⁴

One aspect of this growth is that today's professionals will become mentors in the future in the palliative care sector in our State.

This underscores the importance of these Awards, which recognise the value of your work today and increasingly into the future. You care for the wellbeing of those whose lives are ending and those close to them in bereavement.

Congratulations again to each finalist. May I also recognise your supportive families and friends, many of whom are here today to share in this ceremony.

Thank you.

David ... [invites Venéy Hiller to the lectern]

³ [Palliative care services in Australia, Hospitals – Admitted patient care and specialised facilities for palliative care - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(aihw.gov.au\)](https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-and-publications/palliative-care-services-in-australia), accessed 3 August 2023.

⁴ Veney Hiller, CEO Palliative care Tasmania 3 August 2023 email to David Owen.