

**LUNCHEON TO MARK NATIONAL CARERS' WEEK 2023
ON BEHALF OF CARE2SERVE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2023**

Good afternoon, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House and to this lunch to mark National Carers' Week 2023 and to acknowledge the important work that you do as carers.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional 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.

National Carers' Week, from 15 to 21 October, is a reminder of the extraordinary work done by carers. In Tasmania alone, we have over 80,000 people, who selflessly dedicate their time, energy and love to support family members and friends facing disabilities, mental health challenges, chronic illnesses, and life-limiting conditions.¹ We acknowledge all these people for their compassion and selflessness.

It takes great dedication to spend more than 100 hours per week caring for a loved one. It is important that we recognise this commitment, and the role carers play in the lives of so many. In the face of challenges, carers exemplify resilience, empathy, and strength.

This year is special as this is the 30th anniversary of Carers Tasmania.² Carers Tasmania is the representative voice of the 80,000 carers in our State. Through its service arm, Care2Serve, important and welcome assistance is provided to carers. Care ranges from respite care, counselling, and in-home support to opportunities to connect with other carers experiencing similar challenges.³

¹ <https://care2serve.com.au>

² <https://care2serve.com.au/history/>

³ <https://care2serve.com.au/who-we-are/>

Importantly, our Tasmanian Government has taken significant steps to formally acknowledge the vital role of carers. The *Carer Recognition Act 2023* (Tas) not only recognises the contributions carers make, but also details obligations for government agencies to ensure carer wellbeing. This Act indicates the government's commitment to supporting unpaid carers.

During our lunch, our State Rooms will be open for you. Please take the opportunity to look around. Before you do, may I give you a brief overview of the House. Construction began in 1855, and the first Governor, Sir Henry Fox Young took up residence in 1858. There are 73 rooms. The finest are open, that is the Ball Room, Dining Room, Drawing Room, Ante-Drawing Room, French Room, and Conservatory. The furniture you will see was especially ordered for the House and shipped out from England. It is still in use today.

We are standing in the Drawing Room with its Carrara marble fireplace from northern Tuscany. You can see the intricate and ornate plaster ceiling and these two very large Royal portraits of King George V and Queen Mary, great grandparents of King Charles III.

There are two views of Old Government House. On the right, the small painting is by Haughton Forrest. He painted it from a model that Lady Franklin ordered built.

The second view of Old Government House is to my left and is a delightful Knud Bull oil on canvas of Hobart and its surrounds.

The Ball Room boasts the world's largest Huon pine timber floor and has three exquisitely grand Bohemian crystal chandeliers comprising of 1,114 pieces in each one. They are affectionately called Crystal, Charlotte and Cinderella, named by our Executive Butler, Leigh Millington.

In the Dining Room, please look up to the ceiling, which is decorated with hand painted panels of the arms of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

If you look at both ends of the room, you will notice that there are two statues of the four seasons, two of which are missing. Government House loaned two of the statues to our neighbour, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, in 1961, but they did not survive the weather outdoors.

In closing, may I recognise and thank all our carers. Without you, the quality of many of our Tasmanians' lives would be diminished. Their lives are better because of you.

I also thank and acknowledge Care2Serve for your advocacy and essential support to our carers; you help them to face challenges and support those they love with your efforts.

Thank you, and I look forward to meeting and speaking with you over lunch.

David ...