

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE GRANTS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE 2023
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2023

Good morning. May I warmly welcome you all to Government House for this Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards presentations 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.

As your Patron, I am again very pleased to be hosting the announcement of this year's Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards recipients. The presentation of these awards has been held at Government House for many years. This reflects both their importance and also the esteem in which nurses are held within our community.

The Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards Committee was established in the 1950s. Their study grants provide Tasmanian registered nurses with the opportunity to undertake post-graduate studies¹.

The main sources of funding for these grants has been from the St John's Hospital Association and from generous donations by Tasmanian nurses and the general public.

Your Committee promotes these important grants, and applications open annually on 12 May, International Nurses Day. Significantly, this is also the anniversary date of the birth of Florence Nightingale, in 1820.

The Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards recognise the achievement and contribution of nurses and midwives, and also their commitment to professional excellence.

¹ nursesgrantsandawards.com/about-us/ accessed 13 Oct 23

This year, four awards will be presented²:

First, The Nell Espie Study Grant.

Nell Espie trained at the Royal Hobart Hospital (General), King George V Hospital, Sydney (Midwifery) and the Tasmanian Department of Health (Child Health). She also undertook Nursing Administration and Community Health Nursing courses at the College of Nursing. Nell joined the army in 1951 and served overseas in Japan, Korea, the Malayan Emergency and Vietnam. She spent 30 years in the army. She retired in 1980 as Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services, Australia. The Nell Espie Study Grant may be awarded up to \$4,000.

Second, The Leonie Sidebottom Study Grant.

Leonie Sidebottom was the first Registrar of Nurses in Tasmania. Leonie held this position for 12 years, retiring in 1963. She contributed to the *Nurses Registration Act* in 1952 which set up the nurses' registration system in Tasmania. The 2023 grant award is valued at \$3,000.

Third, The Robyn Whitworth Study Grant.

Robyn Whitworth was a community health nurse and supervisor on our north-west coast. She was one of the first palliative care nurses appointed in the community. After her untimely death, her nursing colleagues started a fund to provide a grant for Tasmanian nurses in her name. The 2023 grant award is valued at \$2,000.

And fourth, The Returned Sisters Memorial Grant.

The Returned Sisters Association of Tasmania Memorial Trust offers an annual Grant to nurses and midwives who are registered and have practised in Tasmania for at least five years. The Grant enables the recipient to undertake a proposed leadership program or project within Tasmania, interstate or overseas. The Returned Sisters Memorial Grant may be awarded up to \$10,000 depending on the recipient's proposed leadership program or project and financial plan.

² www.nursesgrantsandawards.com/our-grants-awards/ accessed 13 Oct 23

Congratulations to all the grant awardees. Your commitment to the practice of nursing and to furthering your ability to provide a contribution to your profession is commendable. Now we shall proceed to the awards.

David ...

[David introduces Francine Douce to provide details and present the recipients]