

**THE AUSTRALIAN PANCREATIC CANCER FOUNDATION
(PANKIND AUSTRALIA)
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023**

[Vice-Regal Salute is played]

Good evening and a very warm welcome to this reception to mark World Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

I begin by paying 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.

This is a significant gathering for PanKind in Tasmania. We have supporters, volunteers, sponsors and fundraisers, members of the medical profession and family and friends of those who have died from pancreatic cancer.

We are very pleased to be able to host this reception on World Pancreatic Cancer Day 2023, the 16 November. It is a key date in global Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

In Tasmania, we have seen a number of 'Light Australia Purple' locations – the Tasman Bridge, Franklin Square Fountain, the Aquatic Centre, Launceston Town Hall, and the Devonport paranaple Convention Centre, to name a few.

The fundraising that is behind so much of this activity is very important. There is a low survival rate compared to other cancers, with some ten fatalities each day, which exceeds that of breast cancer fatalities.¹

¹ Notes supplied by Lisa Brooke, PanKind in 14 November 2023 email to David Owen.

Therefore, the two goals of PanKind are significant: to triple the survival rate by the end of this decade; and secondly, to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.²

Early detection is paramount in limiting the effects of pancreatic cancer. PanKind, through your Scientific Advisory Panel, works with some of Australia's top researchers in this critical area.

The story of PanKind itself is one of determination arising out of adversity. It was not long ago that Tasmanian resident, Avner Nahmani, died from the disease. This led to the establishment of the Avner Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, and its urgent fundraising enabled a medical research trial. In 2010, the Avner Fund received charity status, as a Foundation. Three years ago, there was a name change to PanKind, the Australian Pancreatic Cancer Foundation. You have now invested \$14 million dollars in research.

May I mention that Tasmania took a significant step with the establishment of the Put Your Foot Down walk in 2012. It is now held in eight Australian cities. Congratulations to all involved in this initiative.

May I also commend Judi Adams for her personal commitment to this cause, as a pancreatic cancer survivor herself. She has great experience in fundraising and awareness, developed through her many years of breast cancer work.

Judi has generously presented this artwork by Luke Wagner for some silent bidding. There is a QR Code for making an expression of interest in purchasing the painting. I encourage you all to do just that!

Luke is one of our most cherished Tasmanian artists. In Tasmanian style, Luke is the partner of Ainstie Wagner, our long-time Executive Chef and Community Engagement Facilitator here at Government House. Ainstie and her Kitchen colleagues, and our Garden Staff team, have large quantities of vegetables, fruits and herbs to work with. These are sent to many organisations and charities, often as prepared meals. We are all aware of the importance of nutrition and a healthy diet in pancreatic cancer treatment.

² Ibid.

At Government House, we have a new community garden, the produce of which is used for the School Food Matters program, a hot lunch food program for students across Tasmania. The garden is also used to educate young people in the importance of growing, preparing and consuming healthy foods. In this small way, we are trying to promote healthy eating.

Please enjoy this reception and we look forward to chatting with you shortly.

Thank you.

David ... [invites Mel Tully, PanKind Head of Partnerships and Community Fundraising, to respond briefly]