

**CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY TASMANIA GRADUATION CEREMONY  
ADDRESS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
PARANAPLE CONVENTION CENTRE, DEVONPORT  
WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2023**

Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you very much for inviting me to join you in this 2023 Children's University Tasmania Graduation Ceremony.

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.

Thank you, Shelby Weeks, for your welcome remarks. I am told and want to acknowledge that you have been involved with our CU since 2020, and you have amassed more than 500 hours in your passport.

We are here to celebrate the graduation of students enrolled in our Children's University Tasmania program. May we also reflect on the progression of this program in northern Tasmania. East Devonport Primary became our first school in the north-west and students graduated in 2016. Since then, graduations have been hosted in Devonport, Latrobe, Kentish and the Central Coast. This speaks volumes for the reach and popularity of this program.

Research has shown consistently that participation in learning outside the traditional classroom environment and exposure to a diversity of learning experience enhances academic achievement. It is also an important way to build self-confidence for students.

Our Children's University Tasmania is administered by the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, which is centred in our University of Tasmania. It is a partnership between schools and other providers to encourage a love and understanding of lifelong learning.

Our CU has Learning Destinations all over our State and in many interest areas, from sports clubs to art galleries, wildlife centres to museums, with both online and face-to-face delivery. Government House in Hobart is also one of those Learning Destinations. I am very happy to continue to support our Children's University in that way.

Enrolment is open to young people between the ages of seven and 14, who are issued with a Passport to Learning to keep a record of their achievements. The year culminates with graduations like this one, where certificates are presented to recognise those achievements.

I would like to thank all of the parents for supporting your child's enrolments and participation. The investment in your children's academic future is so important.

It now gives me great pleasure to be able to present certificates to graduates of the Children's University. Congratulations to you all.