

AFTERNOON TEA FOR GUIDE DOGS TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2023

Good afternoon, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to this afternoon tea for Guide Dogs Tasmania. This gives me the opportunity to thank and acknowledge your volunteers, key supporters, and staff.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather, who flourished on Country as part of the South East Nation of Aboriginal people. We honour them, and today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

I am delighted to spend time with you this afternoon to thank you for your volunteer time for others and to celebrate your contributions to the lives of those who rely on Guide Dogs Tasmania. I thank you all for your dedication, time, and effort that goes into developing and caring for these beautiful dogs.

We all know and recognise the Guide Dog logo. With a history that spans over 60 years, Guide Dogs Tasmania has been dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Tasmanians living with low vision, disability, illness, or those requiring support and companionship. Guide Dogs Tasmania offers these people independence, and opportunities.

Guide Dogs Tasmania is our only Tasmanian-based provider of Guide Dog training services, which sets you apart and makes you invaluable to our community.

I would like to acknowledge in Guide Dogs Tasmania – the Puppy Development Volunteers, the community fundraising volunteers, and all your supporters.

Puppy Development Volunteers lay the foundations for the lives of service that the Guide Dogs embark upon. The outcome of your dedication is that people benefit from your efforts in real and tangible ways.

Community and Fundraising Volunteers' efforts in raising awareness make sure the mission of Guide Dogs Tasmania is widely known in the community. You rally the community to support Guide Dogs Tasmania, which ensures that Guide Dogs Tasmania can continue to provide services.

We too thank the support of sponsors and donors, which is essential in helping Guide Dogs Tasmania provide services.

May I conclude and thank all of you again for your service, dedication, and support for Guide Dogs Tasmania. I look forward to speaking with you all and meeting the dogs here today.