

KENNERLEY CHILDREN'S HOMES INC
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOVING ON PROGRAM
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2023

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House.

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. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

As Patron of Kennerley Children's Homes, I am especially pleased to celebrate this 20th anniversary of your Moving on Program. I learned more about this program when in January, Cedric Manen, your then new CEO, came to Government House with impressive Young Ambassador Kirsten Shaw, a Moving on Program participant.

Kennerley is a Tasmanian institution now in its 154th year. It is that experience which has enabled you to respond meaningfully and successfully to the difficult contemporary challenges of moving from foster care to independence.

As your website states: "Research shows that in every Australian state and territory young people in their mid to late teens had poorer life outcomes after leaving care. The Moving on Program has been filling this gap in Tasmania, enabling children to reach their true potential, to gain their independence and a sense of hope for the future."¹

As a partnership between Kennerley and the Tasmanian Government, the Moving on Program assists young people between ages 15 and 22 with supported accommodation and the development of life skills education.

¹ [Moving On Program - Kennerley Kids](#), accessed 20 November 2023.

They have their own unit within a safe unit complex including Caretaker units. They have a Charter of Rights and clearly set out obligations in a signed contract.

The program is a journey to independence and includes this key phrase: “We want you to graduate from this program with a real sense of achievement.”²

Well, the proof of this is in statistics. Since the program’s inception in 2003, more than 70 young Tasmanians have benefitted from it, with the average stay being more than three-and-a-half years.

I congratulate those young people and all who have been part of their successful transition through Kennerley. In this, I include Kennerley’s staff; carers; donors and sponsors; community partners; and Board members.

And regarding Board Members, may I make special mention of Robin Jacques, Deputy Chair, with no less than 45 years of service to Kennerley. Thank you, Robin.

We also welcome as your new Chair, former Board Director Michelle Weir.

I shall conclude by again congratulating everyone involved in the Moving on Program, and more broadly all those associated with Kennerley Children’s Homes in Tasmania.

Thank you.

David ... [invites Cedric Manen, CEO, to respond]

² “Contract for Young People” 3rd last page.