

RECONCILIATION TASMANIA'S YOUTH SPEAK OUT 2023
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2023

Good morning and a very warm welcome to these Reconciliation Tasmania 2023 Youth Speak Out presentations.

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 the sixth year of Reconciliation Tasmania's Youth Speak Out. I congratulate RT Board Co-Chairs Clair Andersen and Beth Gilligan and all Board Members for ensuring the continuation of this excellent initiative.

May I also acknowledge Marnie Ritz for administering the complex process of bringing together students from different schools. This has been particularly poignant this year with the recent defeat of the Voice Referendum.

RT's Youth Speak Out encourages our young people to think about ways in which words, video, art or music can be positively instructive, to better achieve reconciliation outcomes for Tasmania. Students are given the opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas around reconciliation.

I commend Youth Speak Out for broadening the syllabus and bringing your commitment for reconciliation into the classroom, to the Parliament and to Government House.

So, to the students here today who will be participating, whom we shall hear speak and who will get certificates – congratulations. May I also thank your parents and, of course, your teachers.

Your decision to take on this work is commendable. As young people, you are demonstrating that reconciliation is important for a better future for our country. I thank you all.

We admire and respect your commitment. My thanks extend to your parents, to your teachers, to your schools, and to Reconciliation Tasmania.

Now, may we hear from some of you for this 2023 Reconciliation Tasmania Youth Speak Out.

Thank you.