

CANCER COUNCIL TASMANIA RELAY FOR LIFE HOBART 2024
OPENING REMARKS
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DOMAIN ATHLETICS CENTRE, HOBART
SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2024

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to another year of our Relay for Life event hosted by Cancer Council Tasmania.

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.

The Relay for Life began in the United States in 1985. Since then, the event has become the largest fundraising event in the world to address the causes, treatment and support for those impacted by cancer in the world.

Here in Tasmania, our Cancer Council Relay for Life has been operating for more than 20 years. In that time, more than 100,000 Relay participants raised some \$15 million. All money raised stays here in Tasmania to support Tasmanians. The Relay for Life is one of six events scheduled for this year and is our Cancer Council's largest fundraiser.

Our Hobart Relay for Life is a significant contributor, with more than \$5.8 million raised. This year, the fundraising target is \$230,000.

Circular Head held their Relay last week. In the coming weeks, there are Relays to be held in the Huon Valley, in Launceston, in Penguin and the final Relay in Triabunna. So, there are still opportunities to participate and to celebrate with those who have overcome cancer, to support those who are undergoing treatment and fighting back against cancer, and to support their carers. It is also an opportunity to remember lost loved ones.

The impact of cancer on families, friends, colleagues, and on our communities cannot be overstated.

Our Cancer Council provides high quality support services; it invests in cancer prevention programs to educate the community about lifestyle factors that may decrease their cancer risk; and it provides a respected voice for people affected by cancer.

Investment in research by our Cancer Council and other organisations has resulted in survival rates increasing from 49% in the 1980s to 69% today.

On behalf of our grateful Tasmanian community, may I take this opportunity to thank Cancer Council Tasmania for your significant work and research over decades in Tasmania and your continuing work.

May I congratulate our CEO, Alison Lai, and her team and all her volunteers right across Tasmania. Equally, I thank and congratulate all our participants and supporters here today, for your commitment to support each other. Thank you for raising valuable funds for our Cancer Council to continue their work.

It now gives me great pleasure to declare the 2024 Cancer Council Tasmania Relay for Life in Hobart officially open. Don and I look forward to joining you for a few laps.

Thank you.