

**SPORT INCLUSION AUSTRALIA
WELCOME HOME AND PRESENTATION OF
AUSTRALIAN SPORTS MEDALS
TO TASMANIAN MEMBERS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN 2023 VIRTUS GLOBAL GAMES TEAM
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Good morning. I warmly welcome you all to this presentation ceremony at Government House.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, and waters.

First of all, may I belatedly welcome you all back home from the Virtus Games held in France last year. For some of you, these were your inaugural Games. For you all to be selected to represent our Country in a sporting endeavour is recognition of your abilities, training and perseverance. I congratulate you all.

Shortly, I shall present four returned athletes with the Australian Sports Medal.

Our Australian Honours System was founded in 1975 with the creation of the Order of Australia. This Order is designed to recognise excellence, achievement or meritorious service by individual citizens.

Then, in 2000, the Australian Sports Medal commemorative medal was awarded to those who had contributed to sporting excellence in Australia. The Medal recognises the efforts of a range of Australians, including former competitors, coaches, sport scientists, office holders, and those who maintain sporting facilities and services.

Later, in December 2020, amended Regulations were introduced, allowing for Australians who participated as official members of an Australian national team,

at declared international multi-sport events since 2018, to receive this Medal recognition. The alignment with an international event provides a focus and connection point for a broad range of sport and sporting abilities, capacity, achievement, contribution and participation.¹

The Australian Sports Medal design symbolises Australian sport and features the stars of the Southern Cross with lines depicting the athletics track at Stadium Australia, Sydney Olympic Park. On the obverse are lines representing an athletics track with the Southern Cross located above.

Congratulations again on your participation in the Virtus Games last year.

Official Secretary ...

[David announces recipients by name]

¹ https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-07/Australian%20Sports%20Medal%20Guidelines_0.pdf
accessed 14 Sept 24