

DIABETES AUSTRALIA – TASMANIA
PRESENTATION OF KELLION VICTORY MEDALS 2024
REMARKS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ALAN BLOW AO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2024

Good morning, everyone.

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to Government House to for this presentation of Kellion Victory Medals.

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

Diabetes is a very serious and complex condition which can affect the entire body. When we think of living with a disease, diabetes is one that has significant impact. It requires daily self-care and if complications develop, diabetes can have a profound impact on quality of life and can reduce life expectancy. While there is currently no cure for diabetes, it is possible to live an enjoyable life by learning about the condition and effectively managing it.¹

In addition to those difficulties, research conducted by the Australian Centre for Behavioural Research in Diabetes found that four out of five people living with diabetes have also experienced stigma at some point. People living with type 1 and type 2 diabetes both reported feeling this way.

It can lead to people not sharing their diagnosis with others, getting the help and support they need, being interested to learn more about their diabetes or doing what they need to do each day to manage their diabetes and stay well.

I also recognise that over 30,000 people are living with this condition in Tasmania,² and that this continues to be a major health concern.

¹ <https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/about-diabetes/what-is-diabetes/> accessed 7 July 22

² [Media release: End diabetes stigma this National Diabetes Week - Diabetes Tasmania, accessed 17 November 2021.](#)

As part of its encouragement program, Diabetes Australia in Tasmania and elsewhere, present annual Kellion Victory Awards to people who have lived with diabetes for more than 50 years.

The Award is recognition to recipients who have successfully lived a long life with diabetes. It is a celebration of that life. The celebrations also include the families of those who live with diabetes, for it is a condition that affects them too. In recognition of that fact, Kellion Carers Certificates will also be awarded here today.

I would like to congratulate those who will receive awards today, and to recognise and thank the many volunteers and supporters of Diabetes Tasmania for the valuable and valued job you do to support and encourage all those in this State who live with diabetes.

Thank you.

Official Secretary ...