

**TASMANIA JACKJUMPERS FAMILY DAY**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER 2024**

Good afternoon, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for this Tasmania JackJumpers Family Day.

May 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 enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

As Patron of our JackJumpers, I am delighted to see so many of you here for this celebration. Appropriately and fittingly, we are gathering on the day the United Nations has declared World Basketball Day.<sup>1</sup>

Firstly, may we all congratulate you once again on your maiden NBL championship! In just three seasons you have become a competitive, successful and cohesive team. You have taken on the best in the country and come out on top.

You won the hearts of all Tasmanians, when you took home the trophy. You have built a base of dedicated, loyal and supportive fans right across our State.

Of course, we all remain your supporters and cheerleaders as you defend your title. You are now hitting a streak of fine form, winning your last five games in a row<sup>2</sup>. We are all anticipating what you have in store for us for the rest of the season.

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<sup>1</sup> [World Basketball Day](#), accessed 16 December 2024

<sup>2</sup> [JackJumpers Secure Fifth Straight Victory](#), accessed 16 December 2024. The JackJumpers are currently 5<sup>th</sup> on the ladder, with their next game to be played in Melbourne on 23 December.

As your Patron, may I take this opportunity to thank you for all you do to 'defend the island'. You embody your commitment to not only defend and win on your home court but also our community's values, unity, and aspirations.<sup>3</sup>

As part of my community engagement role as Governor, I am a strong supporter of all sports, particularly for children. Sport has physical and psychological health benefits. It also teaches life skills, such as cooperation, patience, and resilience, and promotes fitness.

May I thank all JackJumpers for inspiring Tasmanian children to play basketball by watching their own team play in their home State and achieve success on a national stage.

I also congratulate you all in increasing awareness of and participation in sport generally across our Tasmanian community.

I acknowledge all JackJumper supporters behind the scenes who work to support you during the year, including family, friends, management, health professionals, and all the JackJumpers staff. Your success owes much to this ongoing commitment and support.

I particularly recognise the support of your families throughout the year. You have had busy travelling schedules and I regret some unfortunate and hurtful online commentary<sup>4</sup>. That cannot overshadow your successes, so I am pleased we celebrate today.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming games, including your big Christmas Day match here in Hobart<sup>5</sup>.

Please enjoy the day and I wish you all a safe and happy festive season.

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<sup>3</sup> [Defend the Island Foundation](#), accessed 16 December 2024.

<sup>4</sup> [ABC News Online](#), accessed 16 December 2024

<sup>5</sup> [JackJumpers news](#), accessed 16 December 2024