

DIABETES AUSTRALIA – TASMANIA
LAUNCH OF POLLIE PEDAL 2025
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HAGLEY FARM SCHOOL, FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Thank you, Principal Viney, for your introduction.

Good morning, everyone, and a warm welcome to this launch of Pollie Pedal 2025, the 18th annual Pollie Pedal Tasmania. Riders and supporters are here to raise awareness and funds for Diabetes Australia in Tasmania.

May I acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal 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.

This three-day cycling journey is dedicated to supporting more than 32,000 Tasmanians living with diabetes and to preventing others from developing the condition. Since its inception in 2006, Pollie Pedal has travelled over 5,000 kilometres and raised \$850,000 for diabetes programs and research.

More than 300 Australians develop diabetes every day. Currently, nearly 1.9 million Australians have diabetes, and it is now the seventh most common cause of death by disease in Australia.¹

As you set out on your journey, we remember that Pollie Pedal is more than a cycling event; it is a statement of unity and support for those affected by diabetes.

Deputy Premier Guy Barnett has been associated with Pollie Pedal from its start. Many will be aware of Minister Barnett's personal journey with type 1 diabetes,

¹ <https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/about-diabetes/diabetes-in-australia/> accessed 18 Feb 25

and his experiences have inspired many. He is dedicated to the spirit of Pollie Pedal, and to raising awareness and supporting the diabetes community.

To all cyclists, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters, thank you all for your dedication to making a difference.

May the 2025 Pollie Pedal ride begin!