

HOBART WOMEN'S SHELTER
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025 FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2025

Good afternoon, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for our second International Women's Day lunch.

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.

Thank you all for joining us to mark International Women's Day 2025. This year's theme urges us to march forward for all women and girls, and to build on the UN's Beijing Declaration 1995 to advance women's rights.

In the 30 years since this Declaration, progress has been made around the world to improve the lives of women and girls. However, much remains to be done. Today, many parts of the world face growing insecurity and crises. According to the United Nations, there are more than 612 million women and girls living amidst armed conflict¹. An estimated 736 million women – almost one in three – have been subjected to violence at least once in their lives.²

Here, in Australia, thirty nine percent of women – two in five – have experienced violence since the age of 15.³ On average, one woman is killed every nine days by a current or former partner.⁴ This is unacceptable.

Research confirms that violence impacts on women's and children's health, wellbeing, education, housing, and relationships.⁵

¹ [UN Women: International Women's Day 2025](#), accessed 14 February 2025

² [UN Women: Facts about violence against women](#), accessed 14 February 2025

³ [Our Watch: Violence Against Women facts](#), accessed 14 February 2025

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ [ihw.gov.au/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/responses-and-outcomes/health-outcomes](#), accessed 4/03/25

Here in Tasmania, we are seeing the impacts of violence against women and children. Our Hobart Women's Shelter has been providing safe emergency accommodation, support and housing to women and children experiencing family violence and homelessness for 50 years.

Despite their excellent work over these years, and adapting to meet the needs of our community, today, they still have to turn away 8 out of 10 women and children due to capacity constraints.⁶

So, we are pleased that funds raised at today's lunch will help the Shelter to assist more Tasmanian women and children and help to further the Shelter's mission to create a safe and inclusive community free from homelessness, violence, inequality, and injustice.

Today, we are not only here to support our Hobart Women's Shelter, but IWD also gives us the opportunity to celebrate women and their achievements. We are all delighted to welcome and host Liz Broderick, former Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner and UN Special Rapporteur on Discrimination Against Women and Girls and now a member on the Board of Fondation CHANEL, as guest speaker. I am sure you will all enjoy hearing about Liz's exceptional career and some of her experiences. We shall also learn from her insights how to march forward and drive change for an equal future. I also welcome Ally Bradley, Executive General Manager of Southern Cross Austereo, as our facilitator today.

We shall hear from Liz shortly, but for now, please enjoy your lunch and thank you all once again for coming today to help raise funds for our Hobart Women's Shelter.

Thank you.

⁶ Information supplied by HWS for International Women's Day luncheon programme booklet