

**TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FUND  
EMERGING COMMUNITY LEADERS PROGRAM  
PRESENTATION CEREMONY – 2024 COHORT  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2025**

**[VICE-REGAL SALUTE]**

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to celebrate the 2024 Emerging Community Leaders graduates.

May I acknowledge 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 continued connection to land, sea, sky and waters.

I welcome representatives of the Tasmanian Community Fund, Chairperson Kym Goodes, the Program facilitators, and, importantly, the 2024 program graduates and their families and friends.

The Emerging Community Leaders Program was established in 2017 to provide a pathway for individuals to develop their skills and confidence in leadership, particularly in rural and regional areas. Over eight years, the program has supported 146 graduates.

Funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF), the program has equipped participants with leadership skills to drive positive change within their communities.

The program focuses on four leadership pillars: leading self, leading others, leading community, and leading for lasting impact.

This 2024 cohort of 21 graduates contributed their skills to a series of community projects, including:

- Move Forward – Developing a strategy to provide free moving services to Tasmanians experiencing homelessness and family violence;
- Youth Create – Producing screen content to empower young people to connect with available services through shared lived experiences;
- Tomorrow’s Powerhouse – Creating care packages for dogs belonging to vulnerable individuals and families;
- Youth Expo – Building connections for young people aged 12–17 in Bridgewater and Gagebrook and linking them with community groups and activities.

To all 2024 graduates, I wish you well in your careers and community work.

May I acknowledge that this is the final year of the Emerging Community Leaders Program.

I thank the Tasmanian Community Fund for all its work in this program and all the facilitators, mentors, and others who have contributed to it.

May I conclude by congratulating each graduate. It is now my pleasure to present each of you with your graduation certificate.

Thank you.

Official Secretary ...