

**HOBART OUT TENNIS CLUB
SOCIAL TENNIS EVENT TO MARK
INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SUNDAY 30 MARCH 2025**

Good morning, everyone. I am delighted to welcome you all to Government House.

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.

I am so pleased that you are here to play some social tennis as an early celebration of International Transgender Day of Visibility, to be marked around the world tomorrow.

May I acknowledge the representatives of Tasmanian LGBTQIA+ community organisation, as well as all Hobart Out Tennis club members and friends joining us for this celebration.

Today is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate inclusion and recognise the achievements and experiences of our transgender, gender diverse and non-binary community members.

In Tasmania, transgender people can access support and advocacy from LGBTQIA+ organisations such as Working it Out, Equality Tasmania and TasPride, and Hobart Out Tennis also plays its important role in supporting transgender Tasmanians.

Your club provides an inclusive environment for members to enjoy tennis. It is heartening to hear that your trans and gender diverse players have been inspired and uplifted by their fellow club members. We are so pleased you could join us again today.

I also recognise Hobart Out Tennis's dedication to promoting LGBTQIA+ representation throughout our Australian tennis community, including through your work with Tennis Tasmania in founding an inclusivity day at the Hobart International tournament.¹

Awards won by your club and its volunteers, such as the Tennis Australia Newcombe Medal for Volunteer of the Year awarded to Brendon Oliver-Ewen in 2023, also increase LGBTQIA+ visibility in tennis.²

We will shortly hear from your club president, TJ Lawson, who will tell us more about the significance of International Transgender Day of Visibility and his own personal experiences.

Finally, may I thank you all again for joining us at Government House.

Thank you, and please enjoy the event.

¹ Information supplied by Hobart Out Tennis to SMCO, 12 March 2025

² Ibid.