

ESKLEIGH FOUNDATION INC
OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
JARDINE CRESCENT, PROSPECT VALE, TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2025

Thank you, Sophie [*Davidson, Chief Executive Officer*].

I am delighted to be here this afternoon, in my role as Patron of Eskleigh, to officially open these new homes and share in what is an important day for Eskleigh and the community it serves.

I begin by acknowledging the palawa people upon whose Country 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 some of you may know, I had the opportunity to visit the historic Eskleigh Estate in Perth earlier this year. It is a striking place—full of character, with a history stretching back to Tasmania's early colonial period. The house itself, once the home of the Gibson family, was reportedly the first private residence in the Southern Hemisphere to be lit by electricity. But its most important legacy is the role it has played in the lives of Tasmanians with disability for the past 78 years.

Being in that historic home and then here today, in this purpose-built, modern setting, we can see the full arc of Eskleigh's journey.

These new homes are designed especially for people requiring high physical support. They offer comfort, security, and a sense of belonging. Perhaps, most importantly, they provide a foundation for residents to lead independent lives.

Each of the seven two-bedroom homes is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and has been constructed to the highest standards of accessibility and liveability. Located in Prospect Vale, close to shops and community services, the homes are well-placed to support inclusive, everyday living.

May I acknowledge, thank, and commend all those who brought this vision of new homes to life. The team at Eskleigh Foundation — under the leadership of Sophie Davidson and Murray Smallhorn — has again shown what is possible when dedication and professionalism come together. May I acknowledge the Eskleigh Foundation team. I also recognise and thank Wilson Multi, who worked closely with Eskleigh to deliver these homes, for their commitment to quality and accessibility.

May I also thank everyone who helped bring this project to life. Your work will make a lasting difference in people's lives.

Most importantly, to the future residents of these homes and their families, may I wish you happiness and comfort in these homes.

It is now my great pleasure, as Patron of Eskleigh, to declare these specialist homes officially open.

Thank you.