

**BEACON FOUNDATION
FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON TO MARK THE
BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING
WELCOME REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 13 JUNE 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone. I am delighted to welcome you all to Government House for this fundraising luncheon marking His Majesty The King's Birthday for 2025.

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 coming today to celebrate the King's Birthday by supporting the Beacon Foundation's work to ensure a brighter future for our Tasmanian young people.

His Majesty King Charles III is a great supporter of young people around our Commonwealth. He founded his organisation The King's Trust – formerly known as The Prince's Trust – in 1976, to improve the lives of disadvantaged young people.¹

Today is therefore a celebration – not only of the King's Birthday, but also of Tasmanian young people. Today, we take this opportunity to listen to their voices.

All our young people have the right to access work, education and other meaningful life pathways.² Sadly, we know that some young Tasmanians can face challenges in taking up – or even visualising – these opportunities.

¹ [About Us: The King's Trust](#), accessed 30 May 2025

² [Beacon Advocacy](#), accessed 30 May 2025

That is where Beacon Foundation steps in, seeking to ensure young people can thrive in the world of work, through its advocacy work and its range of programs across our State.

As Patron of Beacon Foundation, I am pleased that all the funds raised today will support Beacon's short courses in Tasmanian schools. These courses provide students with access to real-world learning and opportunities to make connections with industry.

Students can gain a better understanding of the world of work and what employment opportunities are available.³

This afternoon we shall hear first-hand from students and their sponsors about how Beacon's programs make an impact.

We shall also have a panel discussion to explore how the education sector, community, and industry can work together to better support young Tasmanians.

I am delighted that young people have had a hand in making today's event possible. We welcomed six students over the past week to undertake work experience here at Government House, learning about flower arranging, working alongside our chefs and serving you today along with our House staff.

Finally, may I thank you all again for supporting Beacon Foundation through your attendance today.

We shall hear from our young people and their supporters shortly but for now, please enjoy your lunch.

Thank you.

³ [Beacon Short Courses](#), accessed 30 May 2025