

**MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA
RECEPTION TO MARK
GLOBAL MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE AWARENESS DAY 2025
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 23 JUNE 2025**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House as we mark Global Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Day 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.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone from the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Tasmania for joining us here this evening. May I particularly acknowledge those living with MND, as well as their families and supporters.

On Saturday, we observed the Winter Solstice here in Tasmania. As the Earth's orbit shifts and the days become longer, the 21st of June is an important turning point on our calendar.

That is why we also mark Global Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Day on this date. We hope that this day may represent a turning point in the search for the cause, treatment and cure of MND.¹

As we are all aware, Motor Neurone Disease is a debilitating, progressive neurological condition that affects thousands of people worldwide.²

While there is currently no cure for the disease, MND Tasmania works tirelessly to improve the quality of life for those affected.

¹ [Global MND Awareness Day](#), accessed 17 June 2025

² Letter MND Tasmania/Official Secretary, 22 March 2024

Unlike many other MND organisations, which focus on raising funds for research, you concentrate on providing on-ground support and care for people with the disease and their families.³

You also play an important role in raising awareness of MND and fostering connections among those affected. You work closely with organisations such as the University of Tasmania, the Menzies Research Institute, and the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, which undertake leading research into understanding MND.

I commend MND Tasmania on all your work over the past 39 years.

Currently, 59 people and their families are supported thanks to your efforts.⁴

Finally, I acknowledge your dedicated supporters and volunteers, including your Board members who are here with us this evening, for everything you do to help to support and improve the lives of those living with MND.

You will have noticed the harp at the front of the Ballroom. Harpist, Meriel Owen from the TSO will be playing a selection of classical works by Handel, Debussy and Bach.

Thank you, Meriel, and everyone, please enjoy your reception.

³ Information provided by MND Tasmania to SMCO, 10 June 2025

⁴ Ibid.