

**RECEPTION FOR THE  
ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE TASMANIA  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2025**

Good evening. I warmly 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 really pleased that you are here tonight to celebrate the work of our Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania, a service that we have all grown up with.

However, many Tasmanians may not appreciate the full extent of healthcare services that our RFDS provides across our State.

Alongside its renowned aero-medical services, RFDS Tasmania provides primary and preventative care in dental health, physical and mental wellbeing, smoking cessation, and recently, workshops on Flinders Island on the impacts of menopause.

Our small land area enables RFDS services to be delivered 'by wheels instead of wings', with dental vans and other support vehicles.

An example is RFDS Tasmania's partnership with the Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation to treat their dental needs in a culturally aware environment.

RFDS Tasmania also provides a range of educational activities for students, and staff attend schools to talk about the RFDS and its work. Students can also participate in hands-on activities at the Launceston base, focusing on health promotion and preventative health care. RFDS Tasmania also has a state-of-the-art simulator, enabling our next generation of Flying Doctors to get some airtime!

May I acknowledge our Commonwealth and State Governments, Primary Health Tasmania and Ambulance Tasmania support for RFDS.

RFDS has a volunteer Board, many of whom are here tonight. May I acknowledge their support. Our RFDS Tasmania is also well supported by community volunteers and organisations.

As an example, the Tasmanian Truck Owners and Operators Association recently donated an impressive \$45,000 from its 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Longford Truck Run from Launceston.

These funds support RFDS Tasmania's *Truckie Check-Ins*, a program that offers free physical and mental health checks for truck drivers' unique needs.

On behalf of RFDS Tasmania, may I thank all the partners and supporters for their commitment to this area of our health care system, maintaining a lifeline to our rural and remote communities. Long may it continue!

Now, please enjoy your reception.

Thank you.