

**TASMANIAN LEADERS INC**  
**RECEPTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING**  
**THE I-LEAD WOMEN IN COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 1 JULY 2025**

**VICE-REGAL SALUTE**

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome you all to Government House this evening to celebrate the women who have taken part in the 2025 I-LEAD Women in Community Services Program.

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.

The Tasmanian Leaders Programs are nationally and internationally recognised for their excellence in both training and the research that underpins leadership development activities.<sup>1</sup>

The I-LEAD Women in Community Service program is a Tasmanian initiative – one that recognises the leadership potential of women working in our community services sector.

Our community services are at the forefront in supporting families, addressing homelessness, caring for our elderly, and helping our youth. And women are, and have always been, central to these services.

The I-LEAD program spans eight weeks, encompassing both in-person workshops and online sessions, during which participants develop their leadership skills.<sup>2</sup>

Thirty women from across our State participated in the course and explored three essential dimensions of leadership:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tasmanianleaders.org.au/> accessed 25 Jun 25

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tasmanianleaders.org.au/i-lead-women-in-community-services/> accessed 25 Jun 25

**Leading You** – building self-awareness, purpose, and resilience.

**Leading Systems** – tackling complexity with clarity and strategy; and

**Leading Connections** – forging the networks that will endure into the future.

To each graduate: congratulations. I commend you not only for what you have learned, but also for what you may go on to do – within your organisations, for those you serve, and as role models for other women.

May I thank the Tasmanian Government for its support of this initiative, as well as the facilitators, mentors, and program designers whose expertise has made it such a success.

To the many families, employers, and colleagues who have supported our participants, thank you for recognising the importance of investing in women's leadership in community services.

Congratulations again, and thank you.