

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE
50th ANNIVERSARY OF EPILEPSY TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 28 JULY 2025**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone and a warm welcome to Government House. As Joint Patrons of Epilepsy Tasmania, Don and I are honoured to welcome you to mark an historic milestone: the 50th anniversary of Epilepsy Tasmania.

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.

Tonight, we acknowledge half a century of commitment to improving the lives of Tasmanians affected by epilepsy. May we acknowledge the people and the progress that have shaped this organisation since your first committee meeting on 28 July 1975.

In 1975, epilepsy was misunderstood; those living with the condition often experienced stigma or discrimination.¹ Over the past five decades, Epilepsy Tasmania has taken a leading role in advocacy, education, and support. You have created a more informed community, one in which those with epilepsy are seen, heard, and supported. Your work now encompasses not only people with epilepsy, but also their families, carers, educators, and health professionals across our State.²

¹ <https://www.epilepsy.org.au/about-epilepsy/what-do-you-wish-people-knew-about-epilepsy/> accessed 27 Jul 25

² Email Paul Quilliam / David Hughes 15 Jul 25

Epilepsy can affect anyone, at any age, and its causes are varied and complex. Yet, despite its prevalence, there remain significant misunderstandings about epilepsy.³

Epilepsy Tasmania has challenged these misunderstandings. It has advocated for the rights and dignity of those living with epilepsy, provided practical training and support services, and helped build public awareness across Tasmania's schools, workplaces, and health services. You have also supported and promoted research aimed at improving treatments and ultimately finding a cure.

May we acknowledge the families who support their loved ones; remember those we have lost; and pay tribute to the doctors, nurses, researchers, advocates, and to staff and volunteers who have given so generously of their time.

To our current Board and dedicated team, to the past leaders who guided you through challenges and change, to volunteers and supporters, thank you for your work and efforts.

Congratulations on this golden anniversary. We thank you for everything you do.

And now, please enjoy your reception.

³ <https://epilepsytasmania.org.au/what-is-epilepsy/> accessed 27 Jul 25