

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
40TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE OF THE
AEROMEDICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA
AND FLIGHT NURSES AUSTRALIA**

REMARKS BY

**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**

HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR, HOBART, WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Good afternoon, everyone. It is my great pleasure as Governor of Tasmania to warmly welcome you all to Hobart for this 2025 Aeromed Conference. I extend a special welcome to our interstate and international delegates.

Thank you, Linton, for your warm Welcome to Country.

May I congratulate you on your wise choice of Hobart for this year's conference. And the sunny weather is an extra gift to you all, ignore the winds! Hobart continues to be a base for retrieval networks and maintains a close connection to remote operations. Hobart is an ideal setting to explore the innovation and complexity that define your profession.

As Tasmanians, we are especially aware of the importance of timely and coordinated retrieval services. Our island geography, with our many regional communities and vast areas of wilderness, means that critical care and retrieval by air is often the only means possible. Your first presentation today is on the renowned Franklin River rescue, a complex operation performed in a challenging environment and performed to the highest standards.

This year's conference marks a significant milestone: the 40th anniversary of the Aeromedical Society of Australasia. For four decades, your Society has been a leader in promoting excellence, education, and innovation in the field of aeromedical and retrieval medicine.

This field requires high levels of service and professionalism from clinicians, paramedics, flight nurses, pilots, researchers, and other associated roles. All work together to deliver life-saving care. You often find yourself in challenging, remote,

and high-pressure environments, without direct support. Congratulations, and thank you all for your continuing service to those in need.

The theme of your conference this year, “Critical Care in the Air: Beyond Borders, United in the Skies,” captures both the nature of your work and the basis for this gathering. Your theme resonates with the power of collaboration and the shared commitment to enhancing patient outcomes, wherever the need arises.

Over the coming days, you will share knowledge, examine case studies, discuss emerging challenges, and reflect on your rich history. I am sure you will also take the time to connect with colleagues, celebrate your shared achievements, and reflect on the impact of your work — not just in technical terms, but in the lives you touch. On behalf of all Tasmanians, may I thank you for your service, your commitment, and the difference you make.

I also hope that you will find time to explore a little of our island while you are here, and perhaps some of our nearby reserves, National Parks, or World Heritage Areas.

It is my great honour to now declare the 2025 Aeromed Conference officially open.