

**UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
PATHWAYS TO POLITICS FOR WOMEN PROGRAM 2025
PRESENTATION CEREMONY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2025**

Good evening, everyone. It is a pleasure to welcome you to Government House to celebrate graduates in the Pathways to Politics for Women Tasmanian 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.

Pathways to Politics for Women marks its tenth year in Australia this year. Last year, we celebrated the inaugural Tasmanian cohort. I am delighted to now congratulate a second group of future female leaders who are graduating from the Tasmanian program.

2025 has seen Tasmanians take multiple trips to the polling booth, with Federal, Legislative Council and House of Assembly elections all taking place in our State. No doubt you have all learnt something about no confidence motions and a little about the constitutional role of the Governor.

May I note that, thanks to initiatives such as Pathways to Politics, more women are putting their names forward to appear on ballot papers.

In our Australian Parliament, women now account for 49.6 per cent of representatives following this year's Federal election.¹

¹ [Gender Scorecard 2025: Women in Australian Politics](#), accessed 8 October 2025

In Tasmania we still have a way to go as our recent House of Assembly and Legislative Council elections returned 46 per cent of women representatives to our Tasmanian Parliament.² In Local Government, female councillors make up 42.5 per cent of Tasmanian councils.³

This makes your Pathways to Politics for Women program so important.

Over the past decade, Pathways to Politics for Women has helped hundreds of Australian women, from all backgrounds, to run for office. I am pleased to note that 90 alumnae have achieved electoral success across the political spectrum and at all levels of government.⁴

I commend all our graduates here today as you embark on your own Pathways to Politics.

You can now take your first steps towards contributing to Tasmania's political future. You have learned from experienced politicians and gained professional skills that will assist you in your future careers.

Shortly, I shall present each of you with your Pathways to Politics pin. Before I do, may I warmly congratulate you all and wish each of you the best as you embark on your careers. I look forward to the contributions you will make to our Tasmanian and Australian democracy.

Thank you.

[Acting Official Secretary calls forward graduates.]

² [House of Assembly members](#) and [Legislative Council members](#), accessed 8 October 2025

³ [Gender Scorecard 2025: Women in Australian Politics](#), accessed 8 October 2025

⁴ [Pathways to Politics for Women: Media Kit](#), accessed 8 October 2025