

**AFTERNOON TEA TO MARK THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DAVID COLLINS LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION OF TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2026**

Good afternoon, everyone.

It is my pleasure as Patron to warmly welcome you all to mark 45 years of the David Collins Leukaemia Foundation of Tasmania.

May I acknowledge 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.

This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the lives you have changed, the knowledge you have advanced, and the work you do. David Collins was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia in 1977. Before his passing in 1979, he asked, in lieu of flowers at his funeral, that funds raised be used to help other patients, to support research in Tasmania into leukaemia and to encourage health professionals to increase their knowledge and expertise in blood and bone-based cancers.

In 1980, the David Collins Leukaemia Foundation of Tasmania was incorporated. The Foundation focused on the principles of care, research, and professional development and remains as relevant today as it was 45 years ago.¹

The Foundation, in 2025 alone, allocated more than \$51,000 to assist almost 100 patients across Tasmania with grocery vouchers, assistance with utility bills, and accommodation for those travelling to Hobart for treatment.

¹ <https://dclftas.org.au/who-we-are/> accessed 5 Feb 26

The Foundation is committed to research, and since the first grant in 1981, more than \$2 million has been invested in advancing knowledge at the Royal Hobart Hospital, the University of Tasmania, and the Menzies Institute for Medical Research.

Health professionals have also benefited from professional development support to attend conferences, share their work, and return with new knowledge.²

May I also acknowledge the support of volunteers and community members who provide financial and in-kind support.³

I thank everyone who has given their time, expertise, and resources to this Foundation that has transformed one man's final wish into 45 years of care and progress.

May I thank the David Collins Leukaemia Foundation of Tasmania for all its significant work and contributions.

Thank you, and please enjoy your afternoon tea.

² Email Deirdre Tuck 28 Jan 26

³The people of Tasmania have shown, time and again, that generosity and solidarity are truly "in our blood"
<https://dclftas.org.au/> accessed 5 Feb 26