

**26TEN WEEK REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2018**

Good morning and welcome to Government House to mark and celebrate the sixth Birthday of 26TEN.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land— the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

I would like to acknowledge Siobhan Gaskell, 26TEN Convenor, and all of her colleagues.

As the Governor I am proud to recognise you as Tasmanian 26TEN members who are lifechangers. Everyone in this room today has either: changed their life by building their skills in reading, writing or maths; or has contributed to the learning of others.

26TEN was launched this time six years ago. Since then, I have heard many stories of the commitment, and often courage, that is needed to return to learning as an adult when one has struggled with literacy and / or numeracy at school.

We know our State is missing out on the contribution of many of our fellow Tasmanians because their literacy and numeracy skills are not keeping up with the levels required by changes in technology and changes at work.

One reason for this is that not enough people come forward to ask for help. This may be because they feel shame or have previously been embarrassed by their lack of skills.

And this is why 26TEN exists: we seek to reduce this stigma, and to encourage Tasmanians from all walks of life to support people to find help if they need it.

Often, the stories of those who do come forward and have success act as real inspiration to those who need a little encouragement to take that first step.

So I congratulate those of you here today who have come forward. Congratulations for returning to learning, and for being role models in your community.

And I sincerely thank those of you who have contributed to their success. Your work and your quiet efforts are most commendable.

I understand that you have travelled here today from all parts of the state.

Here today, we celebrate individuals like Dylan, who now runs his own landscaping business.

And Jade, whose ambition prompted him to put up his hand when offered support by his employer, and who then went on to encourage others. Dick and I met Jade two years ago when we visited Houston's Farm two years ago to speak with a group of employees who had received support from 26Ten.

We celebrate Alisha who can now read to her children.

And William, who has dyslexia and yet is Tasmania's young farmer of the year.

We know that adult learners make great progress when they have the support of adult literacy practitioners – the trainers, the volunteers, the coordinators – from:

Work and Training; TasTAFE; Libraries Tasmania; Oak Tasmania; and the Migrant Resource Centre.

Here I can name individuals like Anne, who has worked with so many adult learners, including Mark, who can now troubleshoot problems with machinery at work; and Jade, who I have already mentioned.

There is Lucy, who has taught a crew of construction workers to use iPads to fill in forms, checklists and pay sheets, providing valuable information in real time from the field, rather than having to return to the office.

And then there are the business owners, CEOs, managers and coordinators from organisations, who also change lives.

Here I would like to offer my congratulations to:

Metro Tasmania; the Launceston City Mission; West Tamar Council; Huon Aquaculture; Multicap; the Best Bite Café; TasNetworks; Duggans; Houstons Farm; and Starting Point Neighbourhood House.

Thanks to all of you for having the foresight to see that when you make a difference at work, you make a difference for your employees and the people who use your services.

So you have all become an integral part of the 26TEN Network of lifechangers, actively working together to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of Tasmanians.

You provide unambiguous evidence that when individuals are given the right support to build their skills, they improve their broader lives and their achievements then also create a positive ripple effect on their families, workplaces and communities.

So I encourage you to keep up these excellent, life-enriching initiatives, learning, teaching and supporting people to build their reading, writing and maths skills.

And please, be proud to speak up and share your experiences, to inspire others to come forward. In this complex world, you have such inspiring stories to tell.

We want everyone to know that success is possible. And that we can all be lifechangers.

Thank you again and do now enjoy a cup of tea with us.