

ASTHMA FOUNDATION OF TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 8 APRIL 2016

Good evening. Dick and I warmly welcome you to this reception to mark the 50th anniversary of the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania.

I would like to acknowledge here this evening:

Kevin Morgan, President of the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania, and Mrs Kerry Morgan; Dr Ian Almond, Senior Vice-President and Dr Helen Almond; Helen Pollard, Vice-President; Mark Brooke, National CEO; Mrs Wendy Evans, General Manager.

And, significantly, there are a good number of community leaders here to celebrate the occasion of this very important Tasmanian institution, among whom are:

Senator Lisa Singh; Alderman Ron Christie representing the Lord Mayor, and Ms Lili Sun; the Honourable Elise Archer MP and Mr Dale Archer (a former Director); the Honourable Rob Valentine MLC; the Honourable Adriana Taylor MLC and Mr Beres Taylor; the Honourable Mike Gaffney MLC; the Honourable Ruth Forrest MLC and Mr Rob Woolley; the Honourable Craig Farrell MLC and Mrs Lee Farrell; Ms Madeleine Ogilvie MP; Mr Robin Ould, CEO Asthma Victoria and Mrs Antoinette Ould; Professor Brigid Heywood, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania and Dr David Ward.

As the Patron of the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania Foundation and on behalf of the Foundation I also thank and recognise the many past and present volunteers, staff members, CEOs, board and committee members and life members who have contributed in so many ways to the work of the Foundation of Tasmania since its founding way back in 1966.

And ofcourse I express my heartfelt thanks as well to the Foundation's donors, including major and long-term donors, sponsors, and the many supporters.

Your personal input into the work of the Foundation, and the support of the community more broadly, has been very important and will continue to be so, indefinitely. Asthma, a chronic disease, is widespread in Tasmania insofar as one in nine of our population is affected – that is nearly sixty thousand individuals, of whom about a quarter have poorly controlled asthma, and there are a number of yearly fatalities.

The associated costs of treating and managing asthma are significant, being nearly \$700 million in 2015.

These facts starkly underscore the importance of the work of the Foundation, which you achieve through high quality education, research and advice.

An excellent example of that is your schools involvement, covering around 85% of Tasmanian schools. I understand that your programs Asthma & Anaphylaxis Active and Pro-Active provide school staff with a practical means to help decrease asthma and/or anaphylaxis from causing anguish, absenteeism, and indeed death.

Very worthy of mention too is your Tasmanian Smoke Alert System and your support for the AirRater program, the free smartphone app which issues appropriate environmental condition alerts.

I'll conclude by making mention of the numerous professional entities with which you are associated – and again, it is a roll-call of names that remind us of the key role that you have in the Tasmanian community.

The Asthma Foundation of Tasmania works professionally with, or contributes in some form to: the University of Tasmania; the Tasmania Fire Service; the Heart Foundation; Arthritis Tasmania; Cancer Council Tasmania; Diabetes Tasmania; Kidney Health Australia; the Stroke Foundation; the Tasmanian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance; the Tobacco Control Coalition.

I would say that that is not a bad outcome for Tasmania having been the last State in the Commonwealth to form an Asthma Foundation.

So congratulations to all of you for your association with the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania, and now please enjoy the reception and the hospitality of Government House staff.

Thank you.