

**PRESENTATION OF KELLION VICTORY MEDALS 2021
ON BEHALF OF DIABETES TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA,
BALL ROOM, THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2021**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE]

Good morning. As Patron of Diabetes Tasmania, it is a pleasure to welcome you all to Government House to raise awareness of World Diabetes Day. Importantly, I shall also present Kellion Victory Medals to those who have had diabetes for 50 years or more.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land : the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

World Diabetes Day, officially observed last Sunday, the 14th of November, was created and launched in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organisation as a response to highlight growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes.

The 14th November date recognised the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with another Canadian scientist, Charles Best in 1922.

As we know, the World Diabetes Day campaign reaches a vast global audience. It is highly effective in promoting the importance of collective action in meeting the diabetes challenge as a critical global health issue. I would also like to recognise that over 30,000 people are living with this condition in Tasmania,¹ and that this continues to be a major health concern.

The current theme for World Diabetes Day is “Access to Diabetes Care – If Not Now, When?” The message here is clear in the World Diabetes Day campaign. The campaign theme highlights the huge and unacceptable gap between those

¹ [Media release: End diabetes stigma this National Diabetes Week - Diabetes Tasmania, accessed 17 November 2021.](#)

who *need* access to insulin, and essential technologies, such as blood glucose meters and test strips, and those who actually *have* access.²

A principal focus of Diabetes Australia is to help others through education, with particular emphasis on preventing complications. As part of its encouragement program, Diabetes Australia in Tasmania and elsewhere, present annual Kellion Victory Awards to people who have lived with diabetes for more than 50 years.

This Award is not only a personal congratulatory recognition to recipients who have successfully lived a long life with diabetes, but also a significant signal that it is possible to live a long, happy and productive life, even if you have to live your life with diabetes. That is something to celebrate. These celebrations also include the families of those who live with diabetes, for it is a condition that affects them too. In recognition of that fact, Kellion Carers' Certificates will also be awarded here today.

As Patron of Diabetes Australia in Tasmania, I would like to pay tribute to our Board President Linda Manaena and all her colleagues; CEO Caroline Wells, and Board members Ange Headlam, Linda Karlsson and the wonderful members of their team. May I also recognise and thank the many volunteers and supporters of Diabetes Tasmania for the valuable and valued job they do to support and encourage all those in this State who live with diabetes.

Thank you.

[David invites Rajya Gurung to speak, after which HE presents to 10 recipients.]

² [World Diabetes Day 2021 \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int), accessed 17 November 2021.