

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARDS 60th ANNIVERSARY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 2019**

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Australia.

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

May I acknowledge among you:

- Sir Guy Green;
- the Honourable Elise Archer MP;
- Josh Willie MLC representing Labor Leader Rebecca White MP;
- the Honourable Sandra Nori, National Deputy Chair, Duke of Edinburgh's International Award;
- Peter Kaye, CEO;
- Steve Halloran, Tasmanian State Manager; and
- Craig Vermey, Vice Chair Tasmania.

In celebration of the 60th Anniversary of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Australia this is an appropriate occasion to thank Award Leaders and Award Centres for their support and contribution to the lives of so many young Australians.

Without the dedication and encouragement of Award Leaders and Centres, the Award in Australia would not be where it is today – currently assisting over 45,000 young Australians annually to find their purpose, passion and place in the world, and equipping them for work and life.

Since 1959, some 775,000 young people have completed the Award in Australia and there are around 60,000 volunteers helping young people undertake their Award challenge every year.

Today the Award in Tasmania along, with 35 Award Centres and 100 Award Leaders, supports close to 300 young people to achieve their Award. This includes 80 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For those here associated with Award Centres: you have created an environment for young people to be empowered with not just the confidence but the desire to create meaningful change, and to find their purpose passion and place in the world.

And for those who are Award Leaders: you have helped young people to believe in the power of their own potential.

Equipping young people with skills and confidence to find their potential has never been more important.

The Secretary General of the International Award Foundation, John May recently stated:

“Young people are labelled with a range of stereotypes – ‘work shy’, ‘unwilling’, ‘entitled ‘narcissistic’ are just a few of the negative labels attached to this demographic. Yet when such labels are cast aside, adult’s experience of most young people show them to be hard working, interested, engaged in society and to have a genuine desire to make the world a better place. On an individual level this can make a transformational difference to a young person’s life, on a collective basis, it has the power to bring significant change to wider society.”

So, on behalf of Tasmanians, as Governor I thank you for being part of this collective and for being the catalyst for significant change in our community and Tasmania.

We hope your involvement in the Award has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience and we hope it continues.

Thank you.