

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE GRANTS AND AWARDS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2019

Good morning all. Dick and I warmly welcome you to Government House.

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:

- Professor Anthony Lawler, Chief Medical Officer/Group Head Health Professional Policy and Advisory Group
- Adjunct Associate Professor Francine Douce [*DOWCE*], Chief Nurse and Midwife for Tasmania, and fellow Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards Committee members;
- Statewide and Regional Executive Directors of Nursing
- Catherine Schofield, Clinical Advisor to the Honourable Jeremy Rochliff MP, Deputy Premier;
- Jess and Peter Allwright, the son and granddaughter of Margaret Allwright OAM
- and David and Anne Laughher representing Nell Espie's family

I'm very pleased as your Patron to be hosting the announcement of this year's Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards recipients.

The Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards Committee, an organisation of Tasmanian nurses and midwives, promotes nursing and midwifery education and research, and advances knowledge and understanding of practice by offering annual Grants and Awards.

They include:

- the Returned Sisters Memorial Grant
- the Nell Espie Study Grant;
- the Leonie Sidebottom Study Grant;
- the Robyn Whitworth Study Grant;
- and the Margaret Allwright Award.

These five awards represent more than \$15,000 allocated to Tasmanian nurses in this 2019 round.

The Florence Nightingale Grants Committee was established in the 1950s to provide Tasmanian registered nurses with the financial opportunity through Study Grants to undertake postgraduate studies.¹ Many Tasmanian nurses have been awarded Study Grants to undertake postgraduate studies at Higher Education Institutions within and outside Tasmania.

The study grants professionally recognise the achievement and contribution of registered nurses and midwives undertaking post graduate study, and nurses and midwives contribution in striving for professional excellence in their professions.

The major source of funding has been through the St John's Hospital Association, with donations from the Tasmanian Nurses and the general public.

The World Health Organisation has honoured Florence Nightingale with the designation of the year 2020 as the 'Year of the Nurse and Midwife' in what is the 200th birth anniversary year of Florence.

I think all of these measures augur very well for the future of these grants and awards, which quite clearly benefit the professional development of each recipient; and therefore the Tasmanian community as whole.

I therefore congratulate the Committee on its continuing endeavours.

Thank you.

¹ <http://www.nursesgrantsandawards.com/about.html>