

**GOVERNMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING INTERNATIONAL (GETI)**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2021**

Good evening and welcome to this reception for International Student Ambassadors studying in Tasmania through the Government Education and Training International (GETI) program.

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 Aboriginal People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

It is my pleasure to have you all here at Government House. I know that you are studying here in Tasmania and far away from your families and from your home countries.

May I congratulate the Department of Education for continuing with this GETI program. May I also congratulate you for your participation in the program, which places value on cross-cultural learning experiences. It is important for us all to learn about, appreciate and respect the wonderful variety of cultures in our modern world.

I understand that you are all in Tasmania engaged in formal study at Elizabeth College, Hobart College and TasTAFE campuses in Hobart and Launceston.

This is the first year in which there is an International Student Ambassadors Program, being students, “who are volunteering their time to build Tasmania’s reputation as a great place to live and study. The Ambassadors are from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam.”

As overseas students, I thought I would tell you briefly about my appointment and role as Governor.

Our Tasmanian Premier, Mr Gutwein appointed me as Governor. Before my appointment, he consulted with some of his parliamentary colleagues and received advice.

As Governor, I must be independent and have no political affiliation or bias while in office. This is very important because as Governor, my principal role is to represent all Tasmanians, no matter what their political affiliations.

Tasmania's *Constitution Act 1934* defines my legal and constitutional role and states that "The Governor and the Legislative Council and House of Assembly shall together constitute the Parliament of Tasmania."

This is put into practical effect in two ways. First, I meet with the Premier and the Cabinet Ministers regularly, so that I am kept fully aware of their deliberations in respect of what is known as delegated legislation. These are rules and regulations that do not have to be debated in the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council.

Secondly, the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council together may debate an important issue and then pass a Bill. I have to sign that Bill in order for it to become a legally enforceable Act of the Parliament of Tasmania.

As Governor, I also have a power, called a reserve power, to make a ruling if the Parliament becomes unworkable. This may happen if the Government loses its majority, or if an election fails to produce a majority for any one party. The exercise of a reserve power in these circumstances is rarely required, which is a sign of the health of our parliamentary democracy.

I also have ceremonial duties. For example, I deliver major speeches at important ceremonial events such as our annual Anzac Day. I also invest Tasmanians with medals each year to recognise their fine service to our community.

Finally, I have community duties. I am the Patron of many charities and community organisations, which help many people, including the aged, migrants and disadvantaged.

So that is a little bit about my role as Governor in our system of governance.

I now look forward to presenting you with your Certificates of Appreciation shortly.

Thank you.

David ... [invites Anne Ripper to respond]