

**THE GOVERNOR'S WINTER BALL
RECEPTION REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 6 JUNE 2019**

Good evening and a very warm welcome to The Governor's Winter Ball.

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.

What a wonderful occasion this is! This Ball Room hasn't had an actual Ball in it for 35 years! But given that we have, since the Queen's 90th birthday, celebrated it with a fundraising concert rather than the traditional reception, it seemed we could this year celebrate it with a fundraising ball.

As Patron of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, I thank you for your generosity in supporting fundraising for the new RFDS Mobile Dental Vehicle.

It is shocking I think that Australia's dental health has not improved in recent years:

- 42% of Australian children aged 5-10 have decayed baby teeth
- A third of adults have untreated decay.

And this is worse in rural and remote areas, and worse for the disadvantaged.

Poor oral health and dental decay can inhibit education, employment and social interaction. This is something I quickly appreciated on my first visit to a Child and Family Centre as Governor and learnt that the reason a young mother I met was reluctant to talk to me was because she had a number of missing front teeth.

Moreover, poor oral health is linked to heart infections, coronary heart disease, stroke, poor outcomes in pregnancy and obesity.

Dental conditions are the leading cause of preventable hospital admissions in Tasmania.

The RFDS mobile dental van aims to close gaps in our dental health system by improving dental health in rural and remote areas. So I thank you very much for supporting it.

Dick and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Australian Army Band Tasmania and the professional choreographers – who David will introduce shortly. Many thanks as well to Julie Shelton of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and to all Government House staff who have worked hard behind the scenes to ensure that all is ready to go: thank you Ainstie Wagner and Kitchen Staff; Leigh Millington and Household Staff; Richard Catt and Administrative Staff.

In fact Richard, as some of you will know, has decided to retire and will be leaving us in a few weeks' time. He has been a terrific Deputy Official Secretary over the past seven years, and the very significant preparation for this Ball is primarily his work – so thank you Richard and perhaps you could all join me in a round of applause.

Ladies and gentleman, would you please now join me in a Toast: “To Her Majesty the Queen.”

Australian Army Band Tasmania plays:

1.
God Save The Queen.
2.
Advance Australia Fair.