

**RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
ST JOHN AMBULANCE TASMANIA INC
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER 2021**

PLEASE BE SEATED

Good afternoon everyone. My husband, Don, and I are delighted to have hosted the Annual General Meeting of St John Ambulance Tasmania here in our magnificent Ball Room. I know that you have been here with your AGM for some time, so I will keep my remarks brief.

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.

I would like to acknowledge:

- Chief Justice Alan Blow, Patron of St John Ambulance Tasmania
- Major General Steve Smith, Chair of the Board
- Members of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem
- Staff and supporters

I have only been appointed recently as Deputy Prior for Tasmania. This is a position that has a long-standing tradition of Vice-Regal support. I am very pleased to be able to join with you in what has become an annual event at Government House.

This is a particularly auspicious year for the Order of St John in Australia. On 18 September the Lord Prior, Professor Mark Compton, wrote to me to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Priory in Australia.

The formal foundation of St John Ambulance in Australia occurred in June 1883. It was not until 16 September 1946 that the Commandery was elevated to the status of a Priory in recognition of the work done and significant contribution

made to the Order of St John and the Australian community over an extended period.

Today, the Priory of the Order of St John in Australia teaches, treats and cares for millions of Australians every year. Tasmanian members play a significant part in the Priory's work. Everything that is done by members of the Priory in Tasmania exemplifies the motto of our Order: For Faith and in the Service of Humanity.

Further afield, Carl Graham, our State Commissioner, is in Papua New Guinea assisting with the delivery of vaccinations against COVID-19.

May I add my congratulations to those of the Lord Prior, and I look forward to being with you during my tenure as Deputy Prior.

I'm now looking forward to meeting all of you and invite everyone to enjoy our reception in the Drawing Room.

Thank you.