

**RECONCILIATION TASMANIA'S YOUTH SPEAKOUT
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2018**

Good afternoon and welcome to this special event marking the first year of Reconciliation Tasmania's Youth Speakout.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land— the Mouheneener 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:

- Bill Lawson, Reconciliation Tasmania Co-Chair and Reconciliation Australia Board Member;
- Fiona Hughes, Reconciliation Tasmania Co-Chair;
- Mark Redmond, Chief Executive;
- and Jason and Tayne Thomas thank you for providing the Smoking Ceremony;

As this is the final of today's three Youth Speakout events I will be brief in my remarks, because we are about to hear from some students and present Certificates.

Firstly, may I as Governor offer my congratulations to Reconciliation Tasmania for this initiative. Dick and I were both humbled and thrilled to have been part of the launch of Reconciliation Tasmania in August last year at Macquarie Point in Hobart – there was a strong sense of anticipation and also pride among everyone gathered there.

And so this creative student engagement in Tasmanian reconciliation is one very positive outcome of RT – positive because it is engaging young people in suggesting ways in which we work together to overcome the dark chapters in our collective history and acknowledge that Aboriginal people have looked after this country for over 40 thousand years and that

there is a continuing vibrant Aboriginal community with a continuity of cultural practices, of which this beautiful necklace of marrineer shells, black crows, oat shells and toothies is an example.

And Youth Speakout is also positive in being a truly educational commitment beyond your regular school curricula.

That you have undertaken this initiative voluntarily is very much to your credit.

Today, the Parliament has become involved in Youth Speakout; as has the Hobart Town Hall. And now you are at Government House. These three institutions represent Vice-Regal, political and civic Tasmania. I know, as Governor, that each of us profoundly want reconciliation to succeed and to be ongoing.

So the Certificates you are soon to receive take on extra significance, through being the first ever awarded, on behalf of Reconciliation Tasmania.

Congratulations again to each of you, and to all of you.

Thank you.