

**ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]

PLEASE BE SEATED

Good afternoon. I warmly welcome you to Government House for the celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation.

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. 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 shall be brief in my remarks as we have a wonderful program of speakers and music before we enjoy lunch in the Drawing Room.

Suffice it to say that a quarter-century anniversary of dedicated fundraising for local medical research is certainly worth celebrating.

The hundreds of thousands of funds you have raised directly support the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians. Your Foundation's work is of great importance.

As your Foundation Patron, may I thank all those who make generous donations, large or small. Our Tasmanian community supports medical research and that is critical, as our Tasmania health status is, in many ways, among the poorest of the nation.¹

The Foundation also benefits from a range of corporate and other supporters. I thank all individuals and organisations for their support, especially given the fierce competition for financial support from all sorts of worthy causes.

I quote one of your key Research Funding Strategies:

¹ Heather Francis notes, 2020.

“To promote medical, healthcare and scientific research within Tasmania and to encourage and advance investigation into the cause, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases and associated conditions relevant to Tasmania.”

This has been a goal from the outset. Indeed, looking back through your records I see your first named research grant, in 1998, was awarded to then RHH Director of Emergency Medicine, Dr Simon Brown, with its title:

“A study of the epidemiology of allergy to Jack Jumper ant stings, and a descriptive retrospective analysis of cases in Southern Tasmania.”

As your Patron, I feel somewhat conflicted and believe I should declare interest because I am also the very proud Patron of our JackJumpers!

In conclusion, my thanks again on behalf of all Tasmanians to our Research Foundation, to CEO Heather Francis and her dedicated staff team; to the Board members; and, to all our supporters. You have done remarkable research for twenty-five years and with many more yet to come.

Thank you.

[David invites Michael Burnett, Board Chair, to speak]