

**CANCER COUNCIL TASMANIA SOUTHERN CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE  
SPEECH BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
15 PRINCES STREET, SANDY BAY, FRIDAY 18 MAY 2018**

Good morning.

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.

Thank you Penny for your inspirational and informative speech.

Premier Will Hodgman, Senator Andrew Wilkie, Allyson Warrington and colleagues, guests — Dick and I are very pleased to be part of the launch of Cancer Council Tasmania's Southern Cancer Support Centre, here in Princes Street in Sandy Bay.

My association with Cancer Council Tasmania, as Patron, has meant that Penny and I and her staff colleagues – not to mention volunteers and supporters – have a close bond. And this continues a lengthy period of Governors as Patron of the Council, dating back to your formation as a single entity in the mid-1990s.

This bond is forged out of a shared determination to continue to improve the lives of Tasmanians with cancer; and those who support them in their struggle with this most debilitating and so often fatal disease.

These premises will be of great comfort and assistance to many individuals in the years ahead and I add my praise and thanks, on behalf of all Tasmanians, to the thoughtful design of Hobart-based interior architecture and spatial design firm Francis & Burne.

You are all aware that a Tasmanian Governor has a significant community role – that is in addition to the constitutional, legal and ceremonial functions of the Office.

And it is within the parameters of the community role that a Governor is able to therefore speak on behalf of the community, at an important event such as this one this morning, especially as Patron.

Let me take a moment to illustrate this particularly with regard to Cancer Council Tasmania.

In 1998 Govern Sir Guy Green opened the then new headquarters of the Council in Bathurst Street.

In 2000 the Cancer Support Centre in Devonport was opened by the Governor.

And the following year expansions to the Launceston Office were officially opened by the Governor.

And as Patron my personal involvement with Cancer Council Tasmania extends also to attending Relay for Life events across the State and hosting the launch of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

So I have been able to observe closely the great effort that Penny and her small team put in, day after day, year after year, to ensure that Cancer Council Tasmania continues to operate at maximum efficiency on a tight budget overwhelmingly supported by public donations – and of course fundraising itself is not exactly easy.

Your work and dedication are exemplary and we have the result of that here this morning in your new premises. I have yet to see the Centre in any detail and I look forward to having a tour shortly.

Congratulations then to all involved in setting up what is another uniquely Tasmanian cancer support centre, with a very wide range of assistance available, be that through duty staff, information and resources, group activities, oncology massage and more, not least the psychological wellbeing of those able to utilise this facility.

Penny you are quite correct when you say every family has a cancer story. In my immediate family we have had more than one cancer story. And we a number of friends who are battling with this disease currently. And so we understand fully just how important this new facility is going to be for individuals and families suffering the shock and dismay of facing up to and living with cancer.

Particularly so when I think of my colleague Julia from South Australia, who has metastatic breast cancer. Julia came to stay with us at Government House last month, still recovering from a bout of chemotherapy in January that left her exhausted. The chemotherapy has stopped the primary and secondary tumours in her liver growing for the moment and she is able to have the kinder Herceptin infusions and anti-hormone drugs for the next three months. But she has realised that she is probably no longer able to continue her work at the University of South Australia and is struggling with the decision to resign and the loss of identity that goes with this.

Julia, is very good at her job as an academic, it absorbs for six days of the week at least. She is struggling to work out what to do with her life. And she tells me it is the fact she is being forced by the disease to resign that makes it so difficult. It is not a real choice. Knowing that Julia benefits from daily yoga, from massage and from working through her psychological issues, I can imagine how a cancer support centre could help.

And I know that some people diagnosed with cancer do not want their family to tell anyone – cannot discuss it with their friends. I can imagine how helpful it would be to have a place like where family members in this situation could get help.

It continues to be a terrible disease. But we must continue to be optimistic, as medical advances continue – and while support networks like Cancer Council Tasmania do their magnificent work.

On that note I officially declare open Cancer Council Tasmania's Southern Cancer Support Centre.

Thank you.