

**TASMANIAN PALLIATIVE CARE AWARDS 2021**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2021**

[Vice-Regal Salute is played]

Please be seated.

Good evening and welcome to the 2021 Tasmanian Palliative Care Awards.

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 Aboriginal People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

May I acknowledge among us:

>Catryna Bilyk, Senator for Tasmania

>Colleen Johnstone, Palliative Care Tasmania CEO

>Ailsa McLaren, Board of Directors Chair

and fellow Board members.

And a very warm welcome to each of our inspiring and highly professional finalists.

I will be brief in my remarks because we have a busy evening ahead of us. First, may I say that I am honoured to have accepted your invitation to become the inaugural Patron of Palliative Care Tasmania.

You provide an invaluable and important support system to help carers and families adjust and cope during a person's illness, death and in bereavement.

You also provide support through community education, awareness, advocacy, information and development of all your carers and volunteers. Your mission is

“to educate, lead and influence policy and practice, advocate and support people of all ages to access quality palliative care.”<sup>1</sup>

As your inaugural Patron, I look forward to engaging fully in my role, given the importance of your work. As Colleen has indicated to me, your vision is to ensure that all Tasmanians – no matter where they live or their personal circumstances – have equitable access and the opportunity to optimise the quality of their life during their illness.<sup>2</sup>

This evening is well-timed for me to start in my new role. I am pleased to be hosting these awards, which recognise palliative care workers, volunteers and your programs, for the intimate, dignified and significant contribution each of you provides to our community.

Thank you for your biographical notes. I have read them and they are truly commendable, for the variety and exceptional nature of the work you do. Thank you for your professional dedication to end-of-life care and associated support.

David ...

[Invites Colleen Johnstone to the stage to speak and then MC]

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<sup>1</sup> 1 July 2021 letter to HE from Colleen Johnstone.

<sup>2</sup> Paraphrased final paragraph of 1 July 2021 letter to HE from Colleen Johnstone.