

**PALLIATIVE CARE TASMANIA
NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK 2024 LAUNCH
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 20 MAY 2024**

Good morning and a very warm welcome to Government House for the launch of National Palliative Care Week 2024.

I acknowledge the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

As Patron of Palliative Care Tasmania, I am honoured to officially launch this year's National Palliative Care Week, an event held every year in May.

Last year's campaign reached more than two million Australians with information on quality of life towards the end of life. This year's theme, "Matters of life and death", aims to connect people with doctors, nurses, social workers and volunteers "the people at the heart of quality palliative care"¹. Many locally hosted events, and a vibrant social media campaign will amplify the message.

Your website indicates that there has been a 50% increase in demand for palliative care services in the past decade, and that may double by 2050. This emphasises the importance of proactive engagement across our entire community.

I also note the launch of your new symbol for the palliative care sector as a significant event in this Palliative Care Week. Your Orange Heart symbolises care and friendship. Wearing an Orange Heart is a visible way to show support for the people receiving palliative care, and for their families.

¹ <https://palliativecare.org.au/npcw/save-the-date-for-national-palliative-care-week-2024/> accessed 15 May 24

May I acknowledge the many events that are taking place right across our State to mark National Palliative Care week. Light up Tasmania will see our Launceston and Burnie Town Halls and Hobart's Wrest Point Casino illuminated during the week.

During the week, there are also online sessions explaining palliative care options, and seminars about steps to ensure financial, legal and health care wishes are secure.

Later this week, there are events that focus on supporting young people through grief and loss. There is even a quiz night that has already been sold out.

May I conclude by thanking everyone here today for their dedication to caring for others. Thank you for your care, resilience, and commitment to quality palliative care for individuals and their families.

Thank you.