

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE GRANTS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024

Good afternoon. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for these Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards presentations for 2024.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

As Patron, it is always my great pleasure to host the announcement of the Florence Nightingale Grants and Award recipients. Holding the awards ceremony here at Government House is a fitting reflection of the esteem our nurses have in our community. These awards also reflect the significant contributions that you all make.

Since the 1950s, the grants have provided our Tasmanian registered nurses with the financial opportunity to undertake post-graduate studies¹. Their main funding source is the St John's Hospital Association and donations from Tasmanian nurses and the general public.

These Grants and Awards recognise the achievements and contributions of nurses and midwives and their commitment to professional excellence. Applications open annually on 12 May, International Nurses Day and, fittingly, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, in 1820.

This year, four awards will be presented²:

First, *The Nell Espie Study Grant*.

Nell Espie trained at the Royal Hobart Hospital (General), King George V Hospital, Sydney (Midwifery) and the Tasmanian Department of Health (Child Health). She also

¹ nursesgrantsandawards.com/about-us/ accessed 9 Oct 24

² www.nursesgrantsandawards.com/our-grants-awards/ accessed 9 Oct 24

undertook Nursing Administration and Community Health Nursing courses at the College of Nursing. Nell joined the army in 1951 and served overseas in Japan, Korea, Malayan Emergency and Vietnam. She spent 30 years in the army, retiring in 1980 as Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services, Australia.

Second, *The Margaret Allwright Study Grant*.

Margaret Allwright trained at St John's Hospital in Hobart and is the only trainee from the hospital to then become Matron (D.O.N) of St John's.

Margaret was the second Registrar of Nurses at the Nursing Board of Tasmania and Chair of the Royal College of Nursing in Tasmania from 1983 – 1986. Margaret then went on to become the Chief Nursing Officer for Tasmania.

The Margaret Allwright Award for Achievement in Nursing Practice was launched on International Nurses Day, 12 May 1992.

Third, *The Robyn Whitworth Study Grant*.

Robyn Whitworth was a community health nurse and supervisor on the North-West Coast. She was one of the first palliative care nurses appointed in the community. After her untimely death, nursing colleagues started a grant for Tasmanian nurses in her name.

And fourth, *The Returned Sisters Memorial Grant*.

The Returned Sisters Association of Tasmania Memorial Trust offers an annual grant to nurses and midwives registered and practising in Tasmania for at least five years to undertake a leadership program or project within Tasmania, interstate, or overseas.

May I congratulate all recipients for your commitment to nursing and to furthering your contributions to the profession. Now, we shall proceed with the awards.

David ...