

**AUSTRALIAN PANCREATIC CANCER FOUNDATION
(PANKIND AUSTRALIA)
RECEPTION TO MARK
WORLD PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH 2024
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2024**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to recognise World Pancreatic Cancer Day and Month.

May 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 enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky and waters.

I am pleased to be with you tonight to help raise awareness of pancreatic cancer. May I acknowledge those here tonight who may have lost loved ones to this deadly disease or who may be battling it themselves. May I also recognise those who contribute their time and efforts to this cause.

Pancreatic cancer, acknowledged as a common cancer in 2023, is the 8th most diagnosed cancer in Australia.¹ The survival rate is amongst the lowest of all major cancers at 12.5%.² PanKind aims to triple the survival rate by 2030 and to improve the quality of life for those with the disease.³

It is vitally important that we all become better informed about its risks and symptoms. Early detection can greatly increase treatment options and life expectancy.

I acknowledge the work of PanKind and its supporters in raising community awareness of pancreatic cancer.

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PanKind places a huge focus on early detection and supports Australia's top researchers in focusing on this and new treatments.⁴ On World Pancreatic Cancer Day tomorrow, PanKind will announce a record \$2 million to ten research projects around Australia.⁵

In October, the PanKind Scientific Meeting brought together the pancreatic cancer research community to present their findings, understand each other's expertise, explore new opportunities, and ensure that research is not replicated unnecessarily.

As part of World Pancreatic Cancer Month this year, 16 major facilities will be illuminated in purple to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer. These include the Tasman Bridge, the Launceston Town Hall, and the Paranaple Centre in Devonport.

PanKind Ambassador, Judi Adams, said, and I quote:

*Lighting the landmarks is only part of the journey... Even if only one person sees this, and it prompts them to do something, that's a good result, if it turns out that they've caught something early.*⁶

Judi is tireless in raising awareness of pancreatic cancer, and I acknowledge her role in organising light-ups around Australia.

This year's World Pancreatic Cancer Day theme is 'Hello Pancreas'! This is an invitation to everyone to learn more about pancreatic cancer. I encourage everyone to read the self-assessment guide available on the PanKind website.⁷

Thank you to everyone here tonight and please enjoy your reception.

Thank you.

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⁶ <https://pankind.org.au/who-we-are/news/australias-turning-purple-for-pancreatic-cancer/>

⁷ <https://pankind.org.au/about-pancreatic-cancer/signs-symptoms/>