

**HOBART CANCERIANS COMMITTEE**  
**AFTERNOON TEA TO MARK THE 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE**  
**AUSTRALIAN CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2024**

Good afternoon to you all, and a very welcome to Government House to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation.

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.

The mission of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation is, I quote, "to back brilliant research by giving scientists the technology and equipment that they need to find new and improved ways to prevent, detect, and treat all types of cancer".<sup>1</sup>

In fulfilling that mission over the last 40 years, the Foundation has awarded over \$204 million in 90 grants to 44 research institutions.

Recently, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, it was announced by our Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn, that the Foundation has awarded four significant grants:

- \$10 million to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Victoria, for a world-first total-body PET/CT scanner;
- \$5 million to the Children's Cancer Institute, NSW, aimed at reducing childhood cancer deaths through early detection, prevention, and new solutions for previously untreatable cancers;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.acrf.com.au/australian-cancer-research-foundation-2-2/> accessed 27 Nov 24

- \$3 million to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Victoria, to crack the immunotherapy effectiveness code for those who currently have a poor response; and
- \$2 million to the Alfred Health and Monash University, Victoria, to track, predict, and personalise immunotherapies.<sup>2</sup>

These are significant funding initiatives that aim to have a major impact. The Foundation has a number of ways to raise funds to support its investments in our future. There are options for everyone, from donations to participation in sports events, from changing hairstyles to volunteering.

One such volunteering mechanism is to be a part of a cancerian group. Cancerians organise events to support funding for cancer research. Over the past 10 years, cancerians have raised more than \$3.4 million for projects that help and continue to assist with cancer prevention, detection, and treatment.

Our Hobart Cancerians have been a small but very active group. Formed initially with the late Doone Kennedy as President, you have raised nearly \$150,000 and continue to raise awareness of the work of the ACRF.

Thank you all very much for your efforts, which are much valued and appreciated. Research is fundamental to advances in medicine and the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Please enjoy your afternoon tea.

Thank you.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.acrf.com.au/news/cancer-research-updates/acrf-awards-20-million-grant-awards/> accessed 27 Nov 24