

**ROTARY TASMANIA COMMUNITY CARE
MORNING TEA TO MARK OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2025**

Good morning, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Government House for our Rotary Tasmania Community Care Morning Tea, marking Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month 2025. Thank you all for joining us today to support such an important cause.

May I acknowledge 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.

Ovarian cancer is often referred to as the silent killer. Each year in Australia, approximately 1,800 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Tragically, 70% of these cases are diagnosed in the advanced stages. There is currently no early detection test. Also, the symptoms—such as abdominal pain, bloating, changes in appetite and fatigue—can be vague and may be overlooked.¹

This month is not only about raising awareness but also about encouraging conversations. Discussions about gynaecological health can be uncomfortable. This often leads to delayed diagnoses and poorer outcomes. It is crucial that we work together to break down these barriers and encourage women to seek early medical advice.

Rotary Tasmania strongly advocates for women's health through its Rotary Tasmania Gynaecological Cancer Project, launched in 2022, and which is dedicated to increasing awareness of gynaecological cancers and to supporting Tasmanians living with these diagnoses.

¹ Email Bidy Fisk / David Hughes – notes by Dr Allison Black - 6 Feb 25

Rotary works alongside Dr Allison Black and her team at the Royal Hobart Hospital's Cancer and Blood Services Clinical Trials Unit. Dr. Black and her colleagues offer access to vital clinical trials that may allow patients to receive treatments not otherwise available.

Events like today's morning tea allow us to come together to show our support for those affected and to help increase awareness. Every conversation we have and every dollar raised gives us hope for a future where fewer families are impacted by ovarian cancer.

Thank you all for being here today, for your generosity, and for your efforts to ensure that no woman should face ovarian cancer alone.

Thank you, and please enjoy your morning tea.