



GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA

**Message from HE the Governor of Victoria
the Hon Linda Dessau AC,
and Mr Anthony Howard AM QC
23 August 2021**

It has been some time since we were last in touch. Since then, the challenges of COVID-19 have continued to affect the Victorian community.

We remain mindful that many of our Patronages have supported the medical, emotional and economic needs of the most vulnerable in our community. We cannot fully express our gratitude to all those who have contributed – and continue to contribute – to keep essential services running, and to support their fellow Victorians.

Over 2020 and 2021, we have witnessed many organisations across the State as they have adapted to the changing circumstances brought about by COVID-19. We are conscious of the effect this has had on all Victorians and of the changes many of you have undertaken according to the new and emerging needs of your members, particularly when they have been unable to gather together for normal activities or special celebrations. In the virtual and in-person conversations we have had with many of our Patronages across this time, the strength and resilience of your members have been clear. The endurance and collaborative spirit of Victorians can be a source of hope for us all.

We have been delighted to welcome guests back to Government House whenever we have been able, and within the numbers allowed, and we have enjoyed many visits in Melbourne and the regions, as permitted. We remain committed to connecting with Victorians across the community however we can, and we have also been glad to be able to continue to conduct meetings and events virtually.

We look forward to when we can gather with you again in person. In the meantime, we would be grateful if you would please convey our best wishes to your staff, members and volunteers. We hope you continue to keep safe, take care and stay connected.

The Hon Linda Dessau AC

Anthony Howard AM QC