



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
VICTORIA

**LAUNCH OF LIONS V DISTRICTS CANCER FOUNDATION INC. MOBILE SKIN CHECK
AND AWARENESS UNIT
Wednesday 10 March 2021**

Mr Bruce Hudgson, Chairman of the Lions V Districts Cancer Foundation, and **Mrs Barbara Hudgson**

Mr David Mann OAM, Ambassador of the Lions V Districts Cancer Foundation

Mr David Triffett, Chairperson of the Lions Australia Council of Governors

Mr Tony Benbow, Chairman of the Australian Lions Foundation and **Mrs Sue Benbow**

Mr Anthony Carbines MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and member of the State Parliament Victoria Lions Club

Mr Richard Riordan, Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Victoria and President of the State Parliament Victoria Lions Club

Distinguished guests

First, I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land upon which we are gathering and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and to any Elders here with us this morning.

I am pleased to welcome you all to Government House for the launch of the Lions V Districts Cancer Foundation's Mobile Skin Cancer Screening Unit that will cover the whole of Victoria, as well as southern New South Wales.

I am particularly pleased for the opportunity to say 'Well done' and 'Thank you' to everyone connected with this initiative.

Recognising the impact of our sunny and sometimes harsh climate in Australia, and the high rates of skin cancer – particularly in regional and rural areas, where many people work outdoors – you have seen the need to ensure that information and regular skin checks are available to everyone, even in areas without immediate access to skin care specialists.

This free service means that no matter where someone lives – whether in inner city Melbourne or in a remote part of our State – and regardless of their circumstances, they will have access to life-saving skin checks.

Lions Clubs are such an integral part of the fabric of our generous community. From hosting the Lions' centenary celebration here in 2017, I recall the words of your founder, Melvin Jones, that 'You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else'.

This skin cancer screening initiative is another example, amongst many across more than a century now, of your commitment to that ethos.

I know that today we are welcoming members of the Lions V Districts Cancer Foundation Board of Trustees (led by Chairman Bruce Hudgson), District Governors of Lions, members of the Medical Professional Advisory Committee, major philanthropists, family and other foundations and donors, volunteers and staff. Without all of you, this project could not have been realised.

You are responsible for the vision, the commitment and the execution, which included the raising of more than \$450,000. You have also ensured the training and volunteering required to 'man the van', as it were.

This morning is a time to feel good, to celebrate and to relax and enjoy your time with us at Government House.

Shortly, I will have the pleasure to cut the ribbon to launch this important van.