

ADDRESS BY
HIS HONOUR MR TOM PAULING AO QC
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
ON THE OCCASION OF
RECEPTION FOR THE HEART FOUNDATION NT
Government House, Darwin
12 June 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you here this evening and in doing so, I acknowledge the Larrakia people and their ancestors, traditional owners of the land on which this house stands.

This function presents me with the perfect opportunity to add my sincere thanks, as Patron of the National Heart Foundation of Australia in the Northern Territory, to the Members who have recently retired from the Board.

Dr Asche contributed eleven years, Dr Warden nine years and Captain Bill Overton and Special Counsel Sally Sievers both sat on the Board for four years, Bill being the immediate Past President.

The letter I received from your CEO, Mr Greg Hallen, put it beautifully: *thank them for their time, effort and wisdom*. I would like to add a personal note of thanks to you all for your deep commitment to the Heart Foundation's mission.

It is crucial that independent charities benefit from input from highly regarded individuals. Raising funds is but one strand in the operation of such a charity and the afore-mentioned *time, effort and wisdom* is beyond measure.

A Board which has a clear focus, influence and dedication can achieve against all odds. And I note that the odds of heart, stroke and blood vessel disease affecting Australians is extremely high – one in six.

I'm reminded of a saying by Martin Luther:

The human heart is like a millstone in a mill: when you put wheat under it, it turns and grinds and bruises the wheat to flour; if you put no wheat, it still grinds on, but then 'tis itself it grinds and wears away.

Thus it is important to recognise that the efforts of the valued Members of the Board were grist to the mill and they need to be replaced like with like.

All your contributions over the years are noted with gratitude.