

## SECOND READING SPEECH

### Jim Bacon Foundation (Winding-Up) Bill 2013

Lara Giddings MP  
Premier

I move – That the Bill now be read for the second time.

Mr Speaker some Members may recall that following the passing of the former Premier, Jim Bacon, from lung cancer, the Parliament passed legislation to set up the Jim Bacon Foundation.

The purpose of the Jim Bacon Foundation is to –

1. provide financial and other assistance to people who are undergoing treatment for cancer, and to organisations that provide support to people who undergoing cancer treatment; and
2. establish a scholarship program for up to three students per annum who are studying either the

care and treatment of cancer, visual arts or political science.

The Act also established a Foundation consisting of the following five people to carry out these objectives –

- two persons appointed by the Minister who have skills and experience to enable them to further the objects of the Foundation – these members are Mrs Honey Bacon and Mr Michael Kent AM;
- the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- the Secretary of the Department of Treasury and Finance; and
- an Executive Officer of the Foundation (appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet under section 10 of the Act).

The work and audited financial statements of the

Jim Bacon Foundation have been reported in the Department of Premier and Cabinet's annual reports since 2004.

Initially, when the Foundation was set up there was considerable fundraising activity and donations levels were quite high. Money was expended on a number of projects to support those suffering from cancer and their families.

The scholarship program has also attracted many candidates over the years with University of Tasmania students receiving assistance in the study of cancer treatment, visual arts and political science – all matters that were close to the heart of Jim Bacon.

Over time, however, with the emergence of a more competitive charity market the Jim Bacon Foundation has had to compete with other like-minded organisations and bodies that also raise money through donations and fundraising activities in order to provide support for

cancer sufferers and their families. Charity work is now global and big business, which makes it harder for smaller and grass roots bodies to maintain their initial success and momentum over time.

In recent times it has been difficult for the Foundation to harness financial support and donations. There are not the resources within the Foundation available to conduct major fund raising appeals or to develop and deliver contemporary marketing and promotions strategies.

Taxation and legal obligations have also become more complex. This has added to the management burden facing the Foundation with its limited resources. In the current climate, with a number of challenging budget urgencies, it would be difficult to justify further injections of public funding to operate the Foundation.

The Foundation has grappled with these issues and, through the hard work and contacts of Mrs Honey Bacon, has identified a body with strong Tasmanian

connections and similar objectives – that is the Ponting Foundation – to continue the work of the Foundation.

The Ponting Foundation was established by Ricky and Rianna Ponting to raise money to help young Australians and their families beat cancer. It provides funding for a wide range of essential services that comfort and nurture young people with this disease, as well as providing emotional support and sometimes financial assistance for the families of these young people.

One of main beneficiaries of the Ponting Foundation is the

David Collins Leukaemia Foundation of Tasmania – an organisation dedicated solely to the care and cure of Tasmanians living with leukaemia, lymphoma and related blood disorders. Funds provided by the Ponting Foundation to the David Collins Foundation in Tasmania have been used to co-fund the “Hitting Childhood Cancer for Six” Program with the Tasmania Government.

The three year program has provided the Royal Hobart Hospital and the Launceston General Hospital with equipment, training and resources to assist in the care and treatment of Tasmanians with cancer, as well as providing support to their families.

The Ponting Foundation is happy to take over the work of the the Jim Bacon Foundation which is a great solution for the Foundation, and Tasmania generally.

Ricky Ponting is a well-known Tasmanian who personally knew Jim Bacon. He is delighted to have this opportunity to continue the support work for cancer sufferers and their families started in the memory of Jim.

This Bill provides for the following –

- the dissolution of the Jim Bacon Foundation;

- the transfer of assets, consisting of a capital sum of approximately \$460 000 to the Ponting Foundation;
- the Crown retains any liabilities that may have accrued;
- the responsibility for dealing with any current or future legal proceedings and related matters; and
- the repeal of the Jim Bacon Foundation Act.

It has been decided to continue the scholarship program started under the Jim Bacon Foundation Act – that is to provide financial assistance of up to three students studying either the care and treatment of cancer, visual arts or political science.

This will continue through a separate annual grant deed to the University of Tasmania for the sum of \$30 000. The scholarship will be known as the Jim Bacon Memorial Scholarship. The funding allocation will come from existing funds in the Department of Premier and

Cabinet's budget and will be administered by the University under the terms of a deed.

I commend the Bill to the House.