



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**7<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

### **Governor General Announced as Patron for The Maggie Beer Foundation**

The Maggie Beer Foundation is honoured to welcome Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, as the inaugural Patron of the Maggie Beer Foundation.

The Foundation was founded by Maggie Beer AO in 2014 to inspire older Australians, and those who support them, to prepare and enjoy healthy, delicious food.

The Foundation works with aged care sector to uplift the food and dining experience in residential aged care homes and to address the real risk of malnutrition for older people including those living in the community.

For 10 years, the Foundation has been advocating, educating, facilitating research, and sharing the latest knowledge and skills with cooks and chefs in aged care. It does this through its online education modules, training hubs, hands-on Trainer Mentor Chef Programs, moderation of a professional community for aged care cooks and chefs, and its contribution to advocacy, research and policy development.

The Maggie Beer Foundation is supported by a volunteer Board who share the belief that beautiful, seasonal, nutritious food is the key to impacting the wellbeing and quality of life for older Australians.

This patronage heeds the words of the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC in her swearing in speech to the Australian Parliament on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. Here she emphasised the “deep and resonant place” care has in the Australian identity and spoke of care as “the gentle thought and the outstretched hand that Australians have always been ready to share when great challenges present themselves. Care is the quieter, better part of ourselves.”

This is the essence of the Maggie Beer Foundation.

“We are incredibly honoured to have the Governor General as patron of the Foundation,” says Jane Mussared, CEO, The Maggie Beer Foundation.

“Her patronage is a wonderful expression of her role as Governor General in encouraging and recognising the efforts of individuals and groups who work every day to improve life in the nation and community. I thank Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, for supporting our ambition of making good food and good eating the reality for each and every older Australian.”

“I am delighted to serve as Patron of the Maggie Beer Foundation and look forward to supporting their work in the community. Under Maggie’s leadership, the team are an example of people who have seen an area of need and are committing their care, expertise and passion to making a difference,” the Governor-General said.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Melinda Durston

Melting Pot Communications

M: 0431 934 271

E: [melinda@meltingpotcommunications.com.au](mailto:melinda@meltingpotcommunications.com.au)

#### About The Maggie Beer Foundation

The Maggie Beer Foundation was founded in 2014 with the mission to inspire older Australians and those that support them to prepare and enjoy healthy, delicious food and set new standards to change the food and dining experience in the aged care sector.

The Maggie Beer Foundation stands with the aged care sector to acknowledge its vital role and celebrate the people who work within it.

The Royal Commission found that 68% of residents in aged care are malnourished or at risk of malnourishment. Many aged care homes Australia-wide, lack the skills in their kitchens and the training required, to accommodate the complex needs of aged care residents. There is no minimum standard in Australia for a cook/chef to work in the aged care sector.

The Maggie Beer Foundation advocates, educates, facilitates research, and shares the latest knowledge and skills with cooks and chefs in aged care, through its online education modules, training hubs and professional hands-on Trainer Mentor Chef Programs, to better service those older people who live in residential aged care. Through our programs, the Maggie Beer Foundation aims to create an engaged and passionate tribe of cooks and chefs in aged care, who feel valued and appreciated. We are also active in advocating for research, information and training which will support the nutrition and well-being of older people living in the community.