



**RECEPTION FOR THE
PAKISTANI AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL ORGANISATION
TO MARK THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF PAKISTAN
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2026**

Good evening, and welcome.

It is a great privilege to join you as we celebrate the 79th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence, a day which marks the vision of a nation founded on the right of people to determine their own future. Thank you to Huzaifa Fakhruddin, Chairperson of the Pakistani Australia Cultural Organisation and all involved. I have been very much looking forward to this reception.

I acknowledge the Palawa people as the First Peoples of lutruwita/Tasmania and the Traditional Custodians of this land. For countless generations, they have cared for and nurtured this remarkable island, its landscapes, waterways and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present and recognise the enduring contribution of Aboriginal Tasmanians to the cultural, social and spiritual life of our State.

While Tasmania and Pakistan are separated by thousands of kilometres, our communities are connected in meaningful ways. Those connections are built through education, trade, tourism and, most importantly, through people.

The Pakistani community is a valued part of Tasmania's multicultural story. The most recent Census, and another one is happening tomorrow, showed that nearly 1,500 Tasmanians were born in Pakistan, and of that 73% hold a Bachelor's degree or higher. Pakistani Tasmanians contribute across every sector of our community—as doctors, nurses, engineers, researchers, academics, business owners, students, farmers and community leaders. They strengthen our economy, enrich our institutions, volunteer in our neighbourhoods and help build the welcoming communities we value.

This contribution reminds us that diversity is one of our greatest strengths. When people from different cultures, languages, faiths and experiences come together with mutual respect, everyone benefits. New ideas flourish, businesses grow, communities become more resilient and young people see opportunities beyond borders.

When I became Governor, one of my aspirations was to help foster a Tasmania where every person feels they belong and where our shared future is strengthened by unity, respect and inclusion.

Gatherings like today's remind us that multiculturalism is about more than recognising our differences—it is about embracing them as a source of strength. It is about creating a community where every person is treated with dignity, every voice is valued, and everyone has the opportunity to participate, contribute and flourish.

When people are free to celebrate their heritage while sharing their talents and experiences, Tasmania becomes richer, more compassionate and more confident in its future. Our diversity is not simply something to acknowledge; it is one of our greatest assets.

Our connections continue to grow. The University of Tasmania has welcomed students from Pakistan who enrich our campuses and strengthen our research community. Across our State, Pakistani-trained doctors and nurses, some of

whom I have worked with in a previous life, make an invaluable contribution to healthcare, especially in regional communities where their expertise and dedication are deeply appreciated.

These ties are strengthened every time someone chooses to study in Tasmania, establish a business, volunteer in a community organisation or simply share a meal with a neighbour. Relationships between nations are built not only by governments, but through everyday acts of friendship, generosity and understanding.

In a world that can too often seem divided, celebrations like this send an important message. They remind us that our differences need not divide us; they can become the foundation for greater understanding, cooperation and peace.

Our shared future depends on continuing to foster respect, inclusion and opportunity for everyone. Regardless of where we were born, the language we speak at home or the faith we practise, we all share a responsibility to build communities where every person feels they belong and can contribute their talents.

On behalf of all Tasmanians, I extend my warmest congratulations to everyone celebrating this important occasion.

May the friendship between Tasmania and Pakistan continue to flourish. May our educational, cultural and economic partnerships continue to grow. And may we always celebrate the diversity that makes our communities stronger, kinder and more prosperous.

To everyone gathered here, thank you for the contribution you make to our State and to our shared future.

Happy 79th Anniversary of Pakistani Independence Day.

Thank you.