



**COMMUNITY EVENT TO MARK PERUVIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY
AS A GUEST OF THE AMBASSADOR OF PERU,
HIS EXCELLENCY MR VITALIANO GALLARDO VALENCIA
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
KINGBOROUGH COMMUNITY HUB, SATURDAY 25 JULY 2026**

Good afternoon, everyone.

It is a genuine pleasure to join you today as we celebrate the 205th Anniversary of Peru's Independence with our Peruvian community and friends here in Tasmania. Thank you for your warm welcome, and my sincere appreciation goes to everyone whose hard work has made this wonderful celebration possible. Thank you Alpaquitay Tasmania and Yenifer—I'm so looking forward to it!

I would like to acknowledge and warmly welcome the Ambassador of Peru, His Excellency Mr Vitaliano Gallardo Valencia, to Tasmania.

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.

Today is an opportunity to honour Peru's rich history, its remarkable journey as a nation, and the vibrant culture that continues to inspire people around the world. It is also a celebration of family, friendship and community—values that are so clearly reflected in today's gathering.

Although Tasmania and Peru are separated by many thousands of kilometres, we share much in common. We both value our extraordinary natural environments, strong regional communities, innovation, and world-class agriculture. There are many opportunities to strengthen our relationship through trade, education, tourism, research and investment.

One of the great joys of living in Tasmania is learning from people who have brought their traditions, talents and experiences from across the globe. The Peruvian community enriches our State in many ways. Through your cuisine, music, dance, art, businesses and community spirit, you have helped make Tasmania an even more welcoming and vibrant place to live.

Peru is a nation of remarkable diversity. Its identity has been shaped by Indigenous cultures, European, African and Asian influences, creating a rich cultural heritage that is admired around the world. That diversity is one of Peru's greatest strengths.

Australia, too, is built on diversity. Our multicultural society is not simply something we celebrate on special occasions—it is one of the foundations of our national identity.

When I came into the office of Governor, promoting unity and inclusion for all Tasmanians was one of my key priorities. Celebrations such as today's remind us that diversity is about far more than recognising our differences. It is about creating communities where everyone feels they belong, where every voice is valued, and where every person is treated with dignity and respect. Inclusion means ensuring that everyone can participate fully in society,

regardless of their cultural background, language, age, ability, gender or beliefs.

I heard our former Tasmanian Premier, the Honourable Peter Gutwein, now Chair of the Australian Multicultural Council, on radio last week where he observed that Australia has been built as a multicultural nation over many decades, and that social cohesion is strengthened not by choosing sides, but through understanding and working together. That is a message worth reflecting on today.

The Peruvian community exemplifies this spirit of unity. Through cultural festivals, community organisations, education, business and the arts, you continue to build bridges between cultures and strengthen the social fabric of Tasmania. Whether introducing Australians to the flavours of ceviche, the rhythms of Peruvian music and dance, which we will hear shortly, or the rich legacy of the Inca civilisation, you remind us that sharing culture builds understanding, friendship and respect.

In a world where division can too often dominate the headlines, gatherings like this send a powerful message. They remind us that diversity is not a challenge to overcome, but a strength to embrace. When people from different backgrounds come together, we become more innovative, more compassionate and more resilient.

Let us recommit ourselves to building communities where everyone feels welcome, where differences are respected, and where inclusion is not just an aspiration but a lived reality.

As we celebrate Peru's independence, we also celebrate the values our nations share: democracy, freedom, opportunity and hope for future generations. We recognise the importance of preserving cultural heritage while embracing the opportunities that come from living in an inclusive and multicultural society.

On behalf of everyone gathered here, I extend my warmest congratulations to Tasmania's Peruvian community. May this Independence Day be filled with joy, pride and the company of family and friends.

¡Feliz Día de la Independencia del Perú!