# TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE THE 2026 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

## REMARKS BY

## HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS AC

## GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2026

Good evening, everyone. I am delighted to welcome you all here to Government House as we celebrate international education in Tasmania.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Palawa people as the First Peoples of Lutruwita/Tasmania and the Traditional Custodians of the land we're gathered on today.

For countless generations, they have cared for this island, its landscapes, its waterways and its communities, and I'm grateful to be able to live, work and play here.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and to any Aboriginal people with us today. Your continuing contribution to the cultural, social and spiritual life of our State is deeply valued.

It is wonderful to see Tasmania's international education community gathered here this evening as we celebrate educational excellence and recognise student achievement.

Tonight we acknowledge the significant contribution international education makes to our Tasmanian Government schools and to the vibrancy, diversity and global outlook of our communities.

Through international partnerships, student mobility initiatives and intercultural learning programs, Tasmanian Government Education International creates meaningful global learning opportunities. These benefit not only international students studying in Tasmania, but also Tasmanian students engaging with the world.

In 2026, students have participated in international education programs across 17 Tasmanian Government schools. In each of these school communities, these programs have enriched learning environments, built intercultural capability, and helped to prepare young people for an increasingly connected world.

As Governor, I am committed to championing Tasmania and ensuring our State's extraordinary story is told on the international stage. In fact, I have made this one of the pillars of my work.

This includes promoting Tasmania's strengths and supporting opportunities that enhance our reputation and contribute to economic prosperity through areas such as tourism, trade and investment.

International education is an important part of that story. It strengthens Tasmania's standing as an inclusive, globally connected place where people can pursue learning, build relationships across cultures and create opportunities for the future.

By welcoming students from around the world, we demonstrate that Tasmania is a place of excellence, opportunity and innovation; a place where people are valued, supported and encouraged to thrive.

In my first few months as Governor, I have already had the privilege of welcoming several Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other diplomatic representatives to Government House. They have hailed from countries right around the globe: Mongolia, Japan, China, India, Switzerland, the Philippines, Chile, the United Kingdom and more.

These meetings are always an honour, and they provide fascinating insights into the many connections, both longstanding and emerging, that our State shares with other nations, which is something I think is so important.

They also provide an opportunity to speak about Tasmania's many strengths and highlight the achievements, ideas and expertise that make our State such a remarkable place. Whether discussing our innovative industries, natural environment or vibrant communities, I am always proud to share Tasmania's story with the world.

This evening we are celebrating some young leaders who have similarly been working to make international connections and promote cross-cultural understanding.

To the 2026 International Student Ambassadors: you are all outstanding representatives of Tasmania's international student community. Tonight you are being recognised for your leadership, engagement and the contribution you make both at school and beyond the classroom. I look forward to presenting you with your certificates shortly.

Before I conclude, I would like to acknowledge all the international students who are with us this evening. Thank you for the valuable contributions you make to school and community life here in our State, and for sharing your culture and experiences with us.

I recognise, too, our Tasmanian students who welcome their international peers here and take part in programs such as the AFS Youth Assembly to reach out to others around the world.  You are all helping to foster a thriving global learning environment in Tasmania.

Of course, strong partnerships between schools, homestay families, communities, government agencies and industry are fundamental to positive student experiences and outcomes.  So, may I acknowledge the teachers, principals, families and partners for the important role you play.

Thank you to everyone for joining us here tonight.  May Tasmania's commitment to inclusive, globally connected education continue to flourish for many years to come.

It is now my great pleasure to present certificates to the 2026 International Student Ambassadors.

David … *[OS to call students forward]*