

**RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE THE ADULT LEARNERS,  
LITERACY EDUCATORS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE 26TEN NETWORK  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2024**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky and waters.

It is a pleasure to join you to acknowledge the valuable work of your 26Ten Network and to celebrate adult learners returning to education and those supporting that learning.

26Ten has many years of providing opportunities for countless adults to enhance their lives through education. Your commitment to providing accessible, flexible, and supportive learning environments is commendable. By offering a variety of courses and programs tailored to the needs of adult learners, 26Ten has given individuals opportunities to achieve their educational goals.

A key element of 26Ten is its recognition that adult education is not only about individual benefit. Increasing literacy and numeracy breaks down exclusions and barriers and increases opportunities for community interaction. Also, it is well known that healthy ageing is in large part based upon continuing links within our community.

There are also other general issues relating to literacy and numeracy that affect us, such as reading medicine and food labels and being able to work with numbers.

May I acknowledge and celebrate all adult learners who are with us tonight. I wish you all the best with your learning.

26Ten also has people who implement the programs – literacy volunteers, tutors, and staff of 26Ten. There are also supporters and those from the State Library and other partner organisations, such as the B4 Coalition. They all deserve our appreciation. Their work is often behind the scenes, providing patient and tailored learning experiences, offering mentorship, and fostering an inclusive learning environment. They enable learners to not only acquire new skills but also to build self-esteem and confidence.

Tonight's reception forms part of **26Ten Week 2024** with the theme, *Family fun with letters and numbers*. This theme highlights how families playing, singing and reading together supports children's development of literacy and numeracy skills. By learning together, parents and carers are setting a fine example for their children.

From a personal perspective, and as grandparents, Don and I play and read to our grandchildren. I can report that Lachie (6) loves the *Treehouse* stories, Liam (4) the *Gruffalo* stories, and Sam (2) those perennial favourites, *Peter Rabbit* and *Paddington Bear*. And they sing along to Don's brogue with *Puff the Magic Dragon*!

May I conclude and acknowledge all returning adult learners, literacy and numeracy educators, and all those supporting 26Ten and its partners. Thank you for your dedication and perseverance.

Please enjoy your reception.