

**PAKISTANI AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL ORGANISATION (PACO)
78th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF PAKISTAN
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2025**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone, and a warm welcome to Government House for this reception to mark the 78th anniversary of the Independence Day of Pakistan.

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.

This is the fourth year we have celebrated this occasion together. I am delighted again to honour the independence of Pakistan and recognise the contributions of our Pakistani community here in Tasmania.

On 14 August 1947, the nation of Pakistan was born out of the partition of British India and celebrations on this day each year are a time for Pakistanis around the world to reflect on their country's rich history and cultural heritage.

In Tasmania, our Pakistani community continues to grow in strength and civic engagement. According to the 2021 census, around 1,500 people in Tasmania identified as being born in Pakistan. Significantly, over 75% of this population held an undergraduate Degree or higher, reflecting a high level of educational attainment.¹

The Pakistani Australian Cultural Organisation plays a central role in fostering connections between cultures, celebrating traditions, and supporting civic harmony. I commend your Organisation for its ongoing dedication to multiculturalism, dialogue, and inclusion in our State.

¹ https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/7106_6 accessed 28 Jul 25

On behalf of all Tasmanians, warmest congratulations to the people of Pakistan on this 78th Independence Day.

Shukriya aur Jashn-e-Azadi Mubarak

Thank you and Happy Independence Day.