

COUNCIL ON THE AGEING (COTA) TASMANIA
MORNING TEA TO MARK SENIORS WEEK 2025
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2025

Good morning, everyone. It is a pleasure to welcome you all here to Government House as we mark Seniors Week 2025.

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.

As Patron of the Council on the Ageing Tasmania, I am delighted to support Seniors Week, the 27th anniversary of this important event, which will feature over 450 activities and events across our State.

Seniors Week is an opportunity for us all to acknowledge older Tasmanians and to recognise the many contributions they make to our communities.

In April, I was pleased to help launch the theme for this year's Seniors Week: *Connecting Generations Through Food*, at the Warrane Community Garden.

Food is a great way to bridge generations. From today until Sunday, groups around our State will be coming together to share meals, food traditions and culinary creativity.

Also, today we are connecting generations through food here at Government House with a morning tea prepared by our kitchen team.

Yesterday, I was pleased to attend an event highlighting COTA Tasmania's *Generations Connect: Tech Together*, a wonderful program bringing young people and older Tasmanians together. After watching a film featuring some of the participants sharing stories, building friendships, and expanding their digital

skills, we heard more from them personally about the friendships they had forged and the benefits of the program.

This month, COTA Tasmania is also launching further initiatives, including new Supporter and Organisational Memberships and a refreshed website, to enhance awareness of its advocacy and programs.¹

I commend COTA Tasmania on this work and for leading Seniors Week celebrations in Tasmania. I also acknowledge the many dedicated community groups and organisations helping to bring Seniors Week activities to life around our State.

Thank you to COTA Tasmania staff, Board members and Policy Council Committee members, as well as sponsors, partners and community sector supporters, for joining us here today. May I also acknowledge Bridget Archer MP, who is our State's first dedicated Minister for Ageing, and welcome her into this important role.

May I wish you a happy Seniors Week as we reflect, celebrate and renew our commitment to building an age-friendly Tasmania.

Please enjoy your morning tea, and your tour of the beautiful gardens.

¹ Information provided by Kate Crawford to DOS, 1 October 2025