

**MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF TASMANIA
RECEPTION TO MARK HARMONY WEEK 2026
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2026**

VICE REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House as we mark Harmony Week for 2026.

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 deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

I am delighted to again host the Multicultural Council of Tasmania to celebrate cultural diversity and inclusivity, and to acknowledge the significant contributions of our multicultural communities in Tasmania.

Our State has a history of migration, and we are becoming increasingly culturally and linguistically diverse.¹ One in five Tasmanians was born overseas, and nearly one in 10 Tasmanians speaks a language other than English at home.²

May I commend the Council on your work to create a culturally and linguistically diverse Tasmania. You have helped to influence policy change and create awareness of the importance of diversity and inclusion.³ You have also collaborated with communities, government and industry to help build a harmonious community in our State.⁴

May I acknowledge your new CEO, Bruno Ferreira, who has joined the Council this year. Welcome, Bruno, and I wish you, the staff and Board all the best as

¹ [Embracing Diversity, Fostering Belonging: Tasmania's Multicultural Action Plan 2025-29](#), accessed 27 February 2026

² Ibid.

³ [MCOT Annual Report 2024-25](#), accessed 27 February 2026

⁴ Ibid.

you continue to advocate for Tasmania's culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

I know that there are many events planned around the State for next week, and I wish you all the best for a successful Harmony Week.

Now, please enjoy your reception and the lively music provided by this evening's musician, Svetlana.

Thank you.