

TOAST FOR KIDS CHARITY INC
LAUNCH OF ‘READ ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD EVERY DAY’ WEEK
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DEVONPORT, SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2026

Good morning, everyone. I am delighted to be here today as we promote the important cause of children’s literacy.

As Patron of Toast for Kids, I am delighted to support the launch of this national week which encourages us to read aloud to children every day.

We all know that literacy is fundamental to success not only in education, but in all aspects of our daily lives.

Literacy is more than reading, writing and numeracy. It is the ability to use these critical skills – as well as oral communication and creative thinking – to meet the demands of this modern world.¹

As Toast for Kids has recognised, it is important to start early in developing literacy skills.

Parents and carers are a child’s most important teachers in their early years to help language development by talking, singing, rhyming and reading with their children, from birth.²

Toast for Kids has worked to facilitate this by developing the delightful picture book, *Tassie Rhymes for Little Tigers* by Narelda Joy, which encourages parents and carers to read to newborns and very young children.

However, some parents and carers may have low literacy and may lack the confidence to help their children. So, adult literacy is also important.³

¹ [26TEN Adult Literacy and Numeracy](#), accessed 3 March 2026

² [26TEN Help for Parents and Carers](#), accessed 3 March 2026

³ [26TEN Help for Parents and Carers](#), accessed 3 March 2026

There is currently work underway in our State to improve literacy amongst Tasmanians of all ages, such as the 26TEN initiative which focuses on lifting adult literacy and numeracy skills, and also programs for our youngest children supported by the B4 Early Years Coalition.

There is a continuing need to improve literacy in Tasmania. That is why the Read Aloud to Your Child Every Day campaign is important.

I commend Toast for Kids on this initiative, and for hosting this event.

Thank you.