

CULTURALLY DIVERSE ALLIANCE OF TASMANIA
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
IN THE HANGING GARDEN, HOBART, SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2021

Good evening. Dick and I are thrilled to have been asked to attend this significant new Tasmanian initiative and for me, as Governor, to have the privilege of saying a few words.

Thank you, Craig Everett, for your Welcome to Country. Can I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

That survival and continuity is so well demonstrated by an event we have just been to – Nunami Sculthorpe Green’s *takara nipaluna/walking Hobart*, which she organised with Tasmania Performs as part of this year’s Ten Days on the Island program. The walk gives voice to the palawa perspective, history and continued presence within contemporary Hobart, and exposes the layers of history beneath its asphalt.

Zelinda Sherlock first spoke to me some months ago about her proposal with colleagues to form the Alliance, but because I was unable to take up the very kind offer of being inaugural Patron, due to my term expiring shortly – in June this year – my being able to speak now has much personal significance.

I say this as it is likely that this is one of the last launches of an organisation I will be attending as Governor. And, more importantly, because Dick and I are strongly committed to the very principles that underlie CDAT.

Australia prides itself on being one of the most multicultural societies in the world and we see ourselves as being a place where all cultures, languages and faiths have an equal opportunity to belong, contribute, achieve and succeed.

And while most Australians see cultural diversity as a good thing, we know that we are nevertheless a country where racism persists and that overt and subtle racism has the effect of discriminating against people of LOTE backgrounds and those of non-European descent.

For this reason, organisations such as this are needed to bring CALD people together to support each other to celebrate cultural differences. I am looking forward to hearing John Kamara and Mike Dutta speak about their vision for the organisation and to meeting the Board members.

Thank you.