

**CULTURALLY DIVERSE ALLIANCE OF TASMANIA (CDAT)
INAUGURAL FUNDRAISING DINNER
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
LEGACY HOUSE HOBART, SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2021**

Good evening and welcome to this inaugural fundraising dinner for the Culturally Diverse Alliance of Tasmania. Don and I are very pleased to be able to join you all for this important next step for CDAT.

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. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our Aboriginal People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

I would also like to acknowledge:

- The Honourable Elise Archer;
- Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds and other Hobart City councillors;
- President John Kamara and his wife, Mavis Kamara;
- Vice President Raj Chopra and his wife, Silky Chopra;
- Treasurer Charles Makoundi and his wife, Michelle Makoundi; and
- Patron, Leigh Carmichael

CDAT was formed earlier this year by a group of Tasmanians committed to the promotion of social cohesion and the building of a strong social fabric that celebrates our unity and oneness, while acknowledging and nurturing our diversity. CDAT believes that in working towards a stronger and more connected community, we ought to first and foremost uphold, protect and promote the rights, heritage and truth of the Aboriginal People. CDAT believes that we are all equal and strives to promote equality for all, regardless of background. According to the CDAT website, the vision of CDAT sees Tasmania as a cohesive, equitable and inclusive society where different cultural groups are supported in maintaining, celebrating and sharing their traditions.

According to our State Government Multicultural Island Policy¹, Tasmania has a rich cultural diversity. Tasmania has become home to people from over 170 different countries, with around 160 different language groups. These people from so many backgrounds, have brought with them their experiences, cultures and traditions. They have enriched our community.

The Diwali festival of light was held in Franklin Square last Friday. Patrons enjoyed a colourful celebration of Indian culture, including classical, semi-classical and Bollywood dance. Diwali is a celebration of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. This is a fitting example, not only of cultural diversity and of what we are trying to achieve, but also the triumph of reason over ignorance.

Most Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. Unfortunately, we know that there are instances of persistent discrimination, even racism against those from a language other than English background.

For this reason, organisations such as your CDAT are needed to bring culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people and their supporters together to encourage and celebrate cultural differences, and to make Tasmania a place where each person feels they belong.

That means working towards a community where we all have the opportunity to achieve our fullest potential and to participate in, and contribute to, all aspects of our community.

CDAT also has a focus on encouraging, mentoring and assisting our multicultural youth, giving them a platform to share their voices, journeys, and experiences.

It is inspirational to have so many people here supporting this CDAT vision. Your contributions to this fundraising dinner will allow CDAT to progress its aims and programs over the coming months and years.

Thank you for your support and please enjoy the dinner and entertainment.

¹ https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/467345/Our_Multicultural_Island_Policy.pdf
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