

**FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCILS OF AUSTRALIA**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 2 JULY 2019**

Good evening. Dick and I warmly welcome you to this reception to mark the launch of the biennial conference in Hobart of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia.

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.

I would like to acknowledge among you:

- Craig Farrell MLC, President of the Legislative Council;
- The Honourable Elise Archer MP;
- Rob Valentine MLC;
- Josh Willie MLC;
- Ella Haddad MP;
- Anna Reynolds, Lord Mayor of Hobart, and numerous Councils Aldermen;
- Commissioner Darren Hine;
- Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor;
- Master Xin De Wang.

And we'll hear shortly from Multicultural Council of Tasmania Chair Waqas Durrani and from Senior Vice-Chair Hina Durrani.

Ladies and gentlemen I will be brief in my remarks – not least because we also have a wonderful performance to look forward to, which David will introduce.

In this fortieth anniversary year of official Australian multiculturalism policy, I would like to quote what the Australian Ethnic Affairs Council stated in 1977:

What Australia should be working towards is not a oneness, but a unity, not a similarity but a composite, not a melting pot but a voluntary bond of dissimilar people sharing a common political and institutional structure.<sup>1</sup>

Now in 2019 multiculturalism is part of our national Australian identity. We recognise that multiculturalism brings innovation, ideas, skill, energy and achievement and makes us richer in all kinds of ways. And that can only have been enabled by leadership, and through the expert guidance, administration and optimism of bodies such as FECCA and, at the states level, our Multicultural Council of Tasmania. As Governor, I see it as my important duty to support the goals and vision of FECCA and the Multicultural Council of Tasmania and to promote diversity, understanding and tolerance in our community.

Congratulations therefore are in order to everyone associated with 40 years of progressing multi-culturalism in Australia in a complex and difficult world.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> The Australian Ethnic Affairs Council, *Australia as a multicultural society*, submission to the Australian Population and Immigration Council on the Green Paper, *Immigration Policies and Australia's Population*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1977, pp. 1–2 and 4–19.