

**PAKISTANI AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL ORGANISATION (PACO)
PAKISTAN INDEPENDENCE DAY 77TH ANNIVERSARY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2024**

Good evening, everyone and a very warm welcome to Government House to mark the 77th anniversary of Pakistan Independence Day.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

Your 77th anniversary of the Independence Day of Pakistan has been formally celebrated on 14 August since 1947. This day honours the creation of the independence and the first constitution of Pakistan on 23 March 1956.

Pakistan is a thriving Federal parliamentary democracy and remains a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The etymology of Pakistan traces back to the Pashto words 'pak', meaning pure, and 'stan' meaning place of or country. Hence your Pakistan is the pure country.

We had the pleasure of hosting your High Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, here at Government House during his visit to our State in February. We were privileged to learn much about Pakistan from him.

Our State has many links with Pakistan. Our latest census reports that there were 1469 people, who identified as being born in Pakistan, living in Tasmania in 2021. 1109 of these held a bachelor's degree or higher. At that time, 357 students born in Pakistan were attending tertiary institutions.

Many of your members are active in community organisations, including the Multicultural Council of Tasmania. You are supporters and steadfast advocates for all the benefits of our multicultural society.

On that positive note, may I conclude and express my congratulations on the 77th anniversary of your independence. I am confident that Pakistan will continue to contribute on the world stage and that Pakistanis in Tasmania will maintain your contributions and service to our wider community.

Thank you.