

TASPRIDE SUMMER FESTIVAL 2025
LAWN BOWLS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2025

Good evening, everyone. I am delighted to welcome you all to Government House to celebrate the TasPride Summer Festival.

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

I am so pleased you joined us on such a lovely evening to play some lawn bowls as part of the TasPride Summer Festival.

I acknowledge the representatives of Tasmanian LGBTIQ+ community organisations and all community members and friends joining us for this celebration.

This year's TasPride Summer Festival is your biggest ever, with events occurring right across our State this month.¹

Tasmania has come a long way since TasPride was founded in 1992 under its original name, the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre.²

From a small crowd of 50 people taking part in the very first Pride Parade in 1994, this year, more than a thousand people marched through the streets of Hobart in celebration.³

¹ [TasPride Summer Festival 2025 program](#), accessed 4 February 2025

² Ibid.

³ Conversation Phoebe Adams/SMCO, 6 February 2025

It is heartening that today, more and more members of our LGBTIQ+ community feel that they can openly embrace their identity.

It is important that we have events like the TasPride Summer Festival, where people can feel supported not just to be themselves but also to celebrate who they are.

As Governor, I want all members of our community to feel welcome here at Government House, so it is wonderful to see such a fabulous crowd on our bowling green!

I want to thank Luke and everyone from the TasPride volunteer committee for helping to organise the games for this event.

As I am reliably informed, lawn bowls is one of the only sports you can play with a beer or glass of wine in one hand, so I hope you all enjoy the refreshments and the games!

Please enjoy your event.