

**MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF TASMANIA  
HARMONY WEEK 2025  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2025**

**VICE-REGAL SALUTE**

Good evening, and a warm welcome to Government House for members of our Multicultural Council of Tasmania to mark Harmony Week 2025.

May I acknowledge 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 thank our musician, Ilyas, for his delightful performance as we entered. He will continue after our formalities.

I am pleased to host the Council here again. I am Patron of other multicultural organisations, including the International Wall of Friendship, the Migrant Resource Centre and the Refugee Legal Service. I believe in the benefits of a diverse society and providing support to promote this in Tasmania.

Tasmania has a rich history of migration. Our Island is home to people born in 177 different countries, and 159 identified languages are spoken in Tasmanian homes. Mark Thomson and Andrew Wilson's recent exhibition, *177 Nations of Tasmania*, was impressive. Their collection of migrant stories of people from around the world who have made Tasmania their new home was interesting and informative.

We value each individual and group's experiences, cultures, and traditions. Diversity enriches us all socially and economically. In areas such as education, tourism, global connections, and local community vibrance, we see the benefits of our success in multiculturalism.

Your 2024 Annual Report<sup>1</sup> indicates that your Council represents some 90 member organisations from across our State, advocating for the interests of Tasmanians from culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse backgrounds. Over the past 12 months, you have delivered education and other initiatives aimed at building the capacities of our communities.

May I acknowledge all the work done by your Council to link our communities and promote multiculturalism's benefits for all.

Another of the important ways that the Multicultural Council of Tasmania contributes to a harmonious, just, fair and inclusive Tasmania,<sup>2</sup> is by conducting events around our State during Harmony Week, which celebrates Tasmania's diverse cultures, blending education with community engagement.

May I conclude by thanking everyone from the Multicultural Council of Tasmania for your important work.

I wish you all the best for a joyful celebration of Harmony Week next week.

Please enjoy your reception.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://mcot.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VD3946-MCOT-Annual-Report-2024\\_Final-16.09.2024.pdf](https://mcot.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VD3946-MCOT-Annual-Report-2024_Final-16.09.2024.pdf)  
accessed 3 Mar 25

<sup>2</sup> [https://mcot.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VD3946-MCOT-Annual-Report-2024\\_Final-16.09.2024.pdf](https://mcot.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VD3946-MCOT-Annual-Report-2024_Final-16.09.2024.pdf)  
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