

FACT SHEET

Family and Sexual Violence COVID-19 support package



The Tasmanian Government's commitment to work towards a safer Tasmania, free from family and sexual violence, remains unchanged through this unprecedented time.

COVID-19 does not cause family and sexual violence. However, the risk, severity and frequency of family and sexual violence may increase during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public health measures introduced to reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as social distancing, isolation and quarantine, means families may be at home with someone who chooses to use violence.

Isolation, financial insecurity, stress, concern, family disruptions, changes to roles and routines may compound or increase the risk, severity and frequency of violence; however, they are not the cause of family and sexual violence.

A key priority for the Government is providing support for Tasmanians to feel safe in their homes.

If you or someone you know is impacted by family violence, call the Safe at Home Family Violence Response and Referral Line on 1800 633 937.

If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual violence call the Statewide Sexual Assault Service on 1800 697 877.

For more information visit 1800respect.org.au
In an emergency, always call 000

Tasmanian Government response

On 26 March 2020, the Tasmanian Government announced a social and economic support package to help vulnerable Tasmanians and the community deal with the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic.

This included \$2.7 million for family and sexual violence initiatives, including:

- \$1.9 million for Safe at Home, Tasmania's whole-of-government integrated criminal justice response to family violence, including additional funding for the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service; the Safe at Home Coordination Unit; Court Support and Liaison Service; and specialist family violence police prosecution services.
- \$310,000 to fund community-based specialist family violence support services to increase their operational capacity to deliver support.
- \$260,000 to increase the Rapid Rehousing pool by an additional 20 properties.
- \$100,000 to establish flexible support packages.
- \$100,000 for a family violence primary prevention awareness raising campaign.
- \$5,000 for women's shelters to purchase entertainment and learning items for children during social isolation.

These actions build on and complement actions under *Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022*.