

**SURVIVORS AT THE CENTRE**

**Tasmania's Third Family  
and Sexual Violence  
Action Plan 2022-2027**

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**Progress Report  
1 July 2025 - 31 December 2025**



Tasmanian  
Government

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# Acknowledgements

## Acknowledgement of Aboriginal people

We recognise the deep history and culture of this island and acknowledge and pay respect to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the past and present custodians of the land.

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the devastating impacts of family and sexual violence in Aboriginal communities and recognises the ongoing leadership role of Aboriginal communities to prevent and address family and sexual violence.

## Acknowledgement of victim-survivors

We acknowledge the resilience and courage of victim-survivors of family and sexual violence. We pay our respects to victims and victim-survivors, their families and communities that all feel the devastating impacts.

## Family violence services and support

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call Triple Zero (000).

If you or someone you know is experiencing, or at-risk of experiencing family or sexual violence, you can contact the following support services.

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### Counselling and support services

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1800RESPECT National Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Counselling Service	24-hours a day, 7 days a week	1800 737 732 (1800 RESPECT) or Text 0458 737 732
Family Violence Counselling and Support Service	9am – midnight weekdays 4pm – midnight weekends and public holidays	1800 608 122

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### Crisis response and support for recent sexual assault

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Statewide sexual assault crisis line	24-hours a day, 7 days a week	1800 697 877 (1800 MYSUPPORT)
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If you have difficulty hearing or speaking to people who use a phone, the National Relay Service (NRS) can help. For further information visit [www.accesshub.gov.au](http://www.accesshub.gov.au).



# Introduction

This Progress Report is for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 for *Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027*.

The focus of this six-monthly progress report is on the actions that have not previously been reported against. Many of these actions have a status of completed, with ongoing activities continuing during this reporting period to deliver the Tasmanian Government response to family and sexual violence.

Reporting of action progress by Tasmanian Government departments will continue at six-monthly periods for the remainder of the Action Plan, with these activities also informing the Tasmanian Government's reporting against the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

# Achievements:

## 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025

The following achievements occurred during the six-month reporting period, demonstrating the ongoing progress across the four key priority areas.

### Partnership and transformation

#### Safe Families Coordination Unit [Action 2]



The Safe Families Coordination Unit oversees the government's multi-agency response to family violence, leads strategic initiatives to strengthen interagency coordination, improve information sharing, and enhance capabilities through targeted training and collaboration with the therapeutic sector.

The scope of the Coordination Unit has expanded to introduce the daily review of statewide family violence reports. Centralising this review process ensures a consistent policing response across Tasmania, supports early identification of risks to victims and affected children, and assists with detecting instances of perpetrator misidentification.

Twenty-one frontline police officers from across the State participated in the inaugural Family Violence Response Course held in October and November 2025. The course aimed to strengthen police officer knowledge and practices in response to family violence incidents. Training covered key legislation, procedures and available resources, interagency frameworks, how the actions of police support other services such as child safety, education, legal support and victims of crime advocacy, and the importance of coordinated engagement with stakeholders for effective outcomes.

#### Legislative Reforms [Action 8]

During the reporting period, the following legislative amendments were implemented contributing to family and sexual violence legislative reform.

On 27 November 2025, amendments arising from the *Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders Amendment Act 2025* became law. These changes included:

- Section 3 of the *Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders Act 2021* was amended to include a conviction for attempting to commit a serious crime and Schedule 1 of this Act was expanded by listing 18 additional sexual offences relating to children and young persons.

On 23 December 2025, legislative amendments arising from the *Sentencing Amendment (Aggravating Factors) Act 2025* became law. These changes included:

- Section 11BA was added to the *Sentencing Act 1997* to require a sentencing court to consider certain stipulated aggravating circumstances in relation to the offence, where the court is satisfied that the offender selected a victim due to the vulnerability or personal circumstances of the victim, whether actual or as perceived by the offender. These include the age of the victim and the personal relationship between the victim and the offender.

*Community consultation for Family Violence Act 2004 review*

On 17 November 2025, the Department of Justice released the community consultation paper *Strengthening Our Responses to Family Violence in Tasmania: Family Violence Act 2004 and Related Legislation Discussion Paper*.

This consultation opened for submissions from stakeholders and members of the community. Due to the nature and complexity of the potential reforms, an extension to the original closing date of 1 March 2026 resulted in submissions closing on 2 April 2026.

### **Technology-facilitated abuse [Action 9]**

Tasmania Police introduced mobile data-extraction devices as a pilot to improve the efficiency of collecting evidence from mobile phones of victim-survivors of family violence. This approach removed the need for victim-survivors to surrender their phones for extended periods, supporting their safety and ability to stay connected.

This pilot and succeeding trial of other options resulted in the use of similar technology embedded in Tasmania Police's operational response to family violence. This technology continues to be reviewed to ensure evidence collection keeps pace with evolving forms of technology-facilitated abuse.

### **Continue the Family Violence Liaison Officer in the *Strong Families, Safe Kids* Advice and Referral Line [Action 11]**

Anyone with a concern about the safety and wellbeing of a child can contact the *Strong Families, Safe Kids* Advice and Referral Line, which is the first point of contact for child wellbeing and safety in Tasmania.

The role of the Family Violence Liaison Officer within *Strong Families and Safe Kids* is to educate and consult referral line workers. This includes emphasising the importance of returning to foundational practice and using such tools as the power and control wheel, recognising and affirming the efforts of the non-offending parent, and ensuring that workers are equipped to offer appropriate support and accountability measures to the offending parent, in their role as a parent.

Further information is available from [www.strongfamiliesafekids.tas.gov.au](http://www.strongfamiliesafekids.tas.gov.au).

## Capacity building



### **Launch of the new peak body: Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance [Action 14]**

The Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance official launch was held on 25 November 2025 in Hobart and marked the beginning of building a broad, visible and active membership base across Tasmania.

Individuals and organisations from across Tasmania were invited to join the new peak body for family and sexual violence in Tasmania through the membership structure. The Alliance aims to represent the family and sexual violence sector across the continuum of primary prevention, early intervention, response, healing and recovery. Members are central to informing policies, practices and systems that prevent violence and improve outcomes for victim-survivors.

The Alliance is the central point of engagement between government and the family and sexual violence sector. It will provide expert advice on service design and policy development to ensure a consistent and evidence-based approach to preventing and responding to violence. Importantly, the establishment of the Alliance supports a cohesive and collaborative system approach across government and the community sector.

The Alliance is funded through a combination of State government funding, and the Tasmanian Government allocating funding from the Australian Government's Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-30 Federation Funding Agreement.

Further information is available from [www.tfsva.org.au](http://www.tfsva.org.au).

### **Flexible Support Packages [Action 16]**

Flexible Support Packages are delivered by the Tasmanian Government to enhance the safety and wellbeing of people affected by family violence. Applicants that meet eligibility criteria are provided with practical supports tailored to individual circumstances and safety needs. Packages up to a maximum of \$6,000 are available for essential items to support victim-survivors and their children to leave a relationship and living situation.

During the reporting period 1 July to 31 December 2025, 59 victim-survivors made 69 applications for Flexible Support Packages. Of those applications, 65 were approved and four applications did not meet the eligibility criteria.

Further information is available from [www.safeathome.tas.gov.au/services/financial-support-for-victim-survivors/flexible-support-packages](http://www.safeathome.tas.gov.au/services/financial-support-for-victim-survivors/flexible-support-packages).

### **Continue to deliver perpetrator programs [Action 20]**

Community Corrections continues to deliver the Family Violence Offender Intervention Program, a high intensity men's behavioural change program for people identified at high-risk of intimate partner violence. An adapted version of the program is delivered to men who use violence within same sex relationships. During the reporting period 1 July to 31 December 2025, 47 eligible offenders completed the program.

The Explore, Question, Understand, Investigate, Practice, Succeed (EQUIPS) Domestic and Family Violence Program was procured during the reporting period for use with medium and high-risk offenders. The program is designed for men and women who use domestic and family violence, including in intimate partner and extended family relationships. From January 2026, Community Corrections plans to start delivering the EQUIPS Domestic Family Violence Program to offenders.

Further information is available from [www.justice.tas.gov.au/communitycorrections/programs](http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/communitycorrections/programs).

### **Continue to ensure forensic medical examinations for adult victim-survivors of family and sexual violence is a statewide service [Action 23]**

Specially trained doctors and nurses provide trauma-informed care that is sensitive to the needs of victim survivors, while conducting forensic medical examinations to collect physical evidence for potential use in future legal proceedings. The current statewide model has been operating since 2020.

Places on recognised forensic medical examination courses are limited. The Department of Health is exploring opportunities to partner with other jurisdictions to secure ongoing places on training courses, while also working to enhance the current statewide capacity and provide better access to services in regional and remote areas of Tasmania. An enhanced model will provide capacity for an immediate response in Emergency Departments across Tasmania, and referral for an ongoing response to a specially trained clinical team.

## **Prevention and early intervention**



### **Expand the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program into a statewide program [Action 25]**

Home Base delivers the *Step Up: Stop, Think, Evaluate, Plan, Use skills and Patience* program to adolescents aged 11 to 17 years who are using violent behaviour in the home, towards family members or intimate partners. The program is currently available in the North and South of Tasmania and is delivered using one-on-one case management, with an outreach model that works with the young person and their family or intimate partner to learn and practice respectful communication, non-violent conflict resolution, and positive relationship strategies in the family.

This is an enhanced action, designed to expand to the North-West of Tasmania. The existing program has received funding allocated by the Tasmanian Government under various Australian Government funding streams since the 2018 initial pilot. While the action is progressing, it is currently assessed as “at-risk” of completion by 2027. The Tasmanian Government is considering options to support delivery of the Step Up program.

Funding for this program is allocated by the Tasmanian Government from the Australian Government’s Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-30 Federation Funding Agreement.

Further information is available from [www.homebasetas.org.au/step-up](http://www.homebasetas.org.au/step-up).

## Voice and diversity

### Funding delivered to diverse communities [Action 32]



Through the Supporting Diverse Communities Grant Program, funding was directed to community-based projects that address the unique needs of diverse victim-survivors and help reduce barriers to accessing support.

A second grant round in 2024-25 awarded \$319,076 across four projects, which are due to be completed by June 2026:

- Family and Sexual Violence Multicultural Community advocates – Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania Inc;
- Family violence migration legal and policy support program for temporary visa holders - Refugee legal Service (Tas) Inc;
- First Conversations Toolkit - Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited; and
- Rapid Response Family Violence Counselling: Giving women and children affected by family violence access to specialist counselling services - Women's Shelter Inc.

Women's Shelter Inc was successful in attaining additional funding in this round to extend and support a project established in the first grant round.

Funding for both grant rounds was allocated by the Tasmanian Government from the Australian Government's Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-30 Federation Funding Agreement.


### Expand the Mothers' Circle pilot program [Action 33]

The Mothers' Circle pilot operated from August 2019 to June 2020 with funding from the Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs. It aimed to support women on Women at Risk visas to help strengthen families and communities, particularly in preventing violent extremism.

An independent evaluation found the program's content could be effectively adapted to other settings and offered recommendations for future delivery.

The Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania evolved the Mothers' Circle program to explore the relationship between a person's identity and the social, cultural, and environmental influences that shape it, including culture, peers, technology, and environment. In doing this, the program aims to strengthen participants' capacity across three key areas:

- Identifying when young people are engaging in at-risk behaviours;
- Addressing these behaviours early to help prevent future violence; and
- Building broader understanding of rights, family violence, and available support services.



Since the program commenced in 2022-23, a total of 57 participants between 21-58 years of age have attended the eight-session program across Northern and Southern Tasmania. Participants identified as belonging to Burmese, Nepali and Afghan (Farsi), Bhutanese, Eritrean, Hazara, Karen, Kurdish, Pakistani, Urdu, Kuku, Sudanese, and Arabic communities.

Specialist services delivered program content from organisations such as Headspace and the Phoenix Centre, Sexual Assault Support Service, Drug Education Network, Tasmania Police, Relationships Australia Tasmania, Women's Health Tasmania and Legal Aid Tasmania.

The program highlighted changing attitudes of participants about feeling empowered to influence their children, make decisions without consulting their husband, family or friends, and the level of comfort about asking for help. The groups helped mothers build social connections and support networks in their area.

Participants highlighted challenges that included the importance of husbands knowing the program information as well and delivering the program at times of the day that support mothers to attend.

Funding for this program is allocated by the Tasmanian Government from the Australian Government's Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-30 Federation Funding Agreement.

# Status of the actions

The status of the 38 actions in *Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027* are reported at 31 December 2025.

Actions carried over from the *Safe Homes, Families, Communities Tasmania's Action Plan for Family and Sexual Violence 2019-2022* have a 'Continuing' action type. These actions are considered complete for the purposes of this reporting.

Status of actions at 31 December 2025

Priority areas	Action number	Action item	Action type New/ Enhanced/ Continuing	Action status Completed/ Progressing	Responsible Minister
Partnership and transformation	1	Pilot the establishment of two Multi-Disciplinary Centres in the North and South of the State to provide survivor centred, holistic and integrated responses to family and sexual violence.	New	Completed	Police, Fire and Emergency Management
	2	Expand the scope of the Safe Families Coordination Unit to undertake whole of Government data coordination and integration for family and sexual violence.	Enhanced	Completed	Police, Fire and Emergency Management
	3	Investigate the Safe and Together Model, including providing professional learning on the model for legal professionals, community sector workers, and Government officers.	New	Progressing	Prevention of Family Violence
	4	Provide next generation technology and instruments for forensic scientists to ensure higher quality evidence for court proceedings, and increase capacity for storage of evidence, including sexual evidence kits.	New	Progressing	Police, Fire and Emergency Management
	5	Establish a family and sexual violence liaison service within the Tasmanian Health Service, which will provide Family Violence Liaison Officers statewide to support clients who identify as experiencing family and sexual violence to access services.	New	Progressing	Health
	6	Provide an additional appointment for parents and children who identify as experiencing family violence through the Child Health and Parenting Service.	New	Completed	Health
	7	Continue electronic monitoring of high-risk family violence offenders.	Continuing	Completed	Corrections and Rehabilitation
	8	Continue to implement legislative reform to strengthen legal responses to family and sexual violence.	Continuing	Completed	Justice
	9	Continue to roll out mobile phone data extraction devices to collect evidence of technology facilitated abuse.	Continuing	Completed	Police, Fire and Emergency Management
	10	Continue to develop standardised risk assessment processes across government and non-government family and sexual violence services.	Continuing	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	11	Continue the Family Violence Liaison Officer in the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line.	Continuing	Completed	Health

Status of actions at 31 December 2025

Priority areas	Action number	Action item	Action type New/ Enhanced/ Continuing	Action status Completed/ Progressing	Responsible Minister
Capacity building	12	Provide historic increased core funding to Tasmania's specialist family and sexual violence services with five-year contracts to enable funding certainty.	New	Progressing	Community Services
	13	Deliver the Safe Beds for Pets program that will establish a coordinated network of safe bed providers and fund safe bed places for Tasmanians at risk of, or experiencing family and sexual violence.	New	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	14	Investigate the establishment of a Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Peak to improve coordination of family and sexual violence services and advice on policy development and service design.	New	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	15	Continue to deliver the Rapid Rehousing Program.	Continuing	Completed	Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs
	16	Continue to deliver Flexible Support Packages.	Continuing	Completed	Justice
	17	Continue to deliver the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes Program.	Continuing	Completed	Justice
	18	Continue to provide legal assistance to people experiencing family and sexual violence.	Continuing	Completed	Justice
	19	Strengthen the Victims of Crime Service.	Enhanced	Progressing	Justice
	20	Continue to deliver perpetrator programs.	Continuing	Completed	Corrections and Rehabilitation
	21	Deliver mandated behaviour change programs, including as part of a family violence order, and for sex offenders.	Enhanced	Completed	Corrections and Rehabilitation
	22	Continue to strengthen specialist police prosecution.	Continuing	Completed	Police, Fire and Emergency Management
	23	Continue to ensure forensic medical examinations for adult victim-survivors of family and sexual violence is a statewide service.	Continuing	Completed	Health

Status of actions at 31 December 2025

Priority areas	Action number	Action item	Action type New/ Enhanced/ Continuing	Action status Completed/ Progressing	Responsible Minister
Prevention and early intervention	24	Effectively embed Respectful Relationships and Consent Education in Tasmanian schools and develop a suite of resources informed by key stakeholders and children and young people that builds understanding of consent, coercive control and grooming in the Tasmanian community.	Enhanced	Completed	Education
	25	Expand the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program into a statewide program across the South, North and North-West to provide early intervention for adolescents that use violence in their families and with intimate partners.	Enhanced	At-risk <sup>1</sup>	Prevention of Family Violence
	26	Continue our partnership with Our Watch through the Tasmanian Government's membership of Our Watch and continuing the Our Watch Senior Advisor Role.	Continuing	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	27	Continue embedding Workforce Equality and Respect Standards in Tasmanian Government Agencies.	Continuing	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	28	Continue to deliver the Harmful Sexual Behaviours program for children and young people.	Continuing	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	29	Continue to strengthen the Defendant Health Liaison Service to provide early intervention assessment and management services to respondents.	Continuing	Completed	Health
	30	Continue to deliver the Men's Referral Service.	Continuing	Completed	Justice

<sup>1</sup> The Tasmanian Government is considering options to support delivery of the program, however this action is currently assessed as 'at-risk' of non-completion by 2027.

Status of actions at 31 December 2025

Priority areas	Action number	Action item	Action type New/ Enhanced/ Continuing	Action status Completed/ Progressing	Responsible Minister
Voice and diversity	31	Establish Tasmania's first Victim-Survivor Advisory Council.	New	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	32	Deliver funding for community-based projects to support inclusion, access and equity to support diverse Tasmanians who experience barriers for accessing support for family and sexual violence.	New	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	33	Expand the Mothers Circle Pilot Program for culturally and linguistically diverse women to the South and North of Tasmania, strengthening individual capacity to identify and respond to family and sexual violence.	Enhanced	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	34	Continue the Safe Choices Local Support Coordinator role in the North and North-West of Tasmania, to ensure a statewide service for women with disability experiencing family violence.	Enhanced	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	35	Continue the Hearing Lived Experience 2022 Survey of Victim-Survivors of Family and Sexual Violence to inform implementation of this Action Plan, and provide a comprehensive dataset of victim-survivor experiences.	New	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence
	36	Continue to support children and families through the Safe Homes, Safe Families Support Team.	Continuing	Completed	Education
	37	Continue to support Aboriginal Families through the Aboriginal Family Safety Workers in Child and Family Learning Centres.	Continuing	Completed	Education
	38	Continue to provide increased counselling services for children and young people experiencing family violence through the Australian Childhood Foundation and the Family Violence Counselling Support Service, Children and Young Persons Program.	Continuing	Completed	Prevention of Family Violence and Health



Tasmanian  
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Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence  
Department of Premier and Cabinet

[fsvap@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:fsvap@dpac.tas.gov.au) | [www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au](http://www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au)

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