

SURVIVORS AT THE CENTRE

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

**Progress Report
1 January 2026 - 30 June 2026**



**Tasmanian
Government**



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Minister's foreword



Reducing and eliminating family and sexual violence remains a priority for the Tasmanian Government. I was honoured to return as Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence on 17 June 2026.

I was the Minister when *Survivors at the Centre* was developed in 2022, and returning to this work has reinforced for me both the progress that has been made and the challenges that remain. The importance and weight of this responsibility is not lost on me, and I remain committed to ensuring Tasmania continues to strengthen its response to family and sexual violence.

On 8 June 2026, the ministerial title was updated to Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence, reflecting the Tasmanian Government's ongoing commitment to recognising the close connection between family violence and sexual violence and the need for a coordinated, whole-of-government approach across prevention, early intervention, service delivery, system reform and support for victim-survivors.

This report outlines progress under *Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027*, the Tasmanian Government's key framework for coordinating reform across agencies and services. The Action Plan guides investment, drives system improvement and supports the delivery of programs and initiatives that seek to improve outcomes across Tasmania.

During the reporting period, *Survivors at the Centre 2022-2027* was extended for 12-months and will now conclude on 30 June 2028.

This extension will allow for an independent, high-level evaluation of 10 years of Tasmania's family and sexual violence reform efforts,

spanning the period 2015 to 2025. The evaluation will provide valuable evidence about outcomes, system performance and areas for improvement, and will help to inform and target future reforms for Tasmania.

Another significant milestone during the reporting period was the progression of the review of the *Family Violence Act 2004*. The discussion paper released in November 2025 delivered on the Government's commitment to seek community input on the future direction of family violence reform in Tasmania. Following an extensive consultation process with victim-survivors, stakeholders and the broader community, which concluded in April 2026, the first stage of legislative reforms was announced.

These reforms aim to strengthen protections, improve accountability and include improved recognition of coercive control through the offences of economic and emotional abuse, extending time limits for reporting and legal action, and establishing a family violence offender levy.

As we move towards the final stages of this Action Plan and consider what might come next, this report reminds us that there is much more work to do. Family and sexual violence causes deep and lasting harm, and reducing that harm requires sustained effort, strong partnerships and a shared commitment to change.

I thank the many people, communities and organisations across Tasmania who continue to contribute to this important work. Your leadership, expertise, advocacy and commitment are invaluable to Tasmanian victim-survivors, families and our communities.

Hon Jo Palmer MLC

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

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.

Counselling and support services		
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
Crisis response and support for recent sexual assault		
Statewide sexual assault crisis line	24-hours a day, 7 days a week	1800 697 877 (1800 MYSUPPORT)

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.



Introduction

This Progress Report is for the period 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 for *Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027*.

This six-monthly progress report continues the focus of reporting on 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 January 2026 – 30 June 2026

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

Partnership and transformation

Arch – North, South and North-West of Tasmania [Action 1]



The pilot of Arch multidisciplinary centres to respond to sexual violence in the North and South of Tasmania concluded on 30 June 2025. A statewide rollout of Arch was completed with the final Arch Centre opening on the North-West in Burnie during March 2026.

An independent evaluation of the pilot in 2024 found that Arch delivers an integrated response to sexual violence through a trauma-informed, survivor-centred and collaborative partnership of services. An Action Plan was developed to address the recommendations of the evaluation and a Monitoring Plan developed to ensure that processes are in place to progress action on the recommendations.

As at 30 June 2026, 995 Arch client records have been created since the inception of the Arch model. As individuals are

de-identified, statistics presented may not reflect unique individuals. Eighty-one of these records have been created in Arch North-West since opening in March 2026. Most people accessing Arch are female.

Arch provides a safe and supportive environment for people affected by sexual violence and its impacts. At Arch, services and organisations work together under one roof to deliver coordinated, trauma-informed, and victim-centred support. Service providers include specialist counsellors, family violence workers, child safety officers, and Tasmania Police.

Further information is available from www.arch.tas.gov.au.

Upgraded forensic equipment and increased capacity for evidence storage [Action 4]

The Forensic Science Service Tasmania Technology Uplift Project 2022-2026 improved critical scientific instrumentation, laboratory infrastructure and storage, ensuring higher quality evidence for court proceedings and increased capacity for storage of evidence, including sexual assault evidence (kits).

A range of upgrades to equipment and storage facilities have been delivered as part of this project, contemporising Forensic Science Service Tasmania's ability to respond to exhibits, including those for sexual offences.

Legislative reform [Action 8]

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

On 11 February 2026, the *Domestic Violence Orders (National Recognition) Regulations 2026* commenced to:

- Declare that a Queensland police protection direction is an interstate Domestic Violence Order (DVO), for the purposes of section 6(1)(h) of Tasmania's *Domestic Violence Orders (National Recognition) Act 2016* (the Act).

The Act provides a framework for automatic recognition and enforcement of DVOs made in Australia, including any New Zealand DVOs registered in Australia. The National Domestic Violence Order Scheme for DVOs is designed to protect victim-survivors of family and domestic violence by ensuring that orders issued in one state or territory are recognised in others.

The Queensland Government created its police protection direction through legislation that commenced on 1 January 2026. It requested other jurisdictions to recognise these directions and, if necessary, progress legislative amendments so continuous protection is ensured for Queensland victim-survivors when interstate.

On 1 April 2026, the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Amendment Regulations 2026* commenced to ensure that:

- Tasmania Police are subject to the *Child and Youth Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme*.

Tasmania Police was considered subject to the Scheme and Standards until the second half of 2025, when an inadvertent drafting issue in the legislation was identified. These Regulations were made as an interim measure, to be replaced by legislative amendment to the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023* later in 2026.

Family Violence Act 2004 review

The release of the *Strengthening Our Responses to Family Violence in Tasmania: Family Violence Act 2004 and Related Legislation Discussion Paper* on 17 November 2025 and the associated community consultation period that concluded on 2 April 2026, resulted in community-wide conversations about where further action should be directed to address family violence in Tasmanian communities.

On 28 May 2026, the Government announced plans to progress multiple stages of legislative reform influenced by the discussion paper. The first stage of these reforms includes practical changes that can be delivered to strengthen the legislative response to family violence, with more complex reforms to follow during later stages. Further reforms were announced outside the reporting period in July and August 2026.

Capacity building



Historic increase in core funding to Tasmania's specialist family and sexual violence services [Action 12]

In 2022-23, core funded specialist family and sexual violence services received a one-off payment of additional core funding, with this additional funding then added into the ongoing base funding for these organisations across subsequent years.

Five-year funding agreements to enable funding certainty

The Tasmanian Government is transitioning community services funding to five-year arrangements to provide certainty and stability for the industry. Peak body funding arrangements were approved for transition to five-year agreements in 2025, with broader recurrent community services funding being progressively transitioned from 2026.

Given the number and diversity of funding arrangements across government, the transition is being undertaken in several stages. Specialist family and sexual violence services will be considered as part of an upcoming stage.

Mandated behaviour change programs [Action 21]

Community Corrections is committed to reducing family violence in our communities and contributing to the increased safety of families, women and children, and delivers

two behaviour change programs to address family violence perpetration risk:

1. Family Violence Offender Intervention Program (FVOIP): targets men identified as being at high-risk of intimate partner violence; and
2. EQUIPS Domestic and Family Violence Program: targets perpetrators assessed at medium to high-risk of using violence in intimate partner and broader family relationships.

Offenders may be required to participate in a program as a condition of their community-based orders. Offenders required to take part in the program may be breached and resentenced for their original offences by the court if they do not participate in accordance with the program requirements.

The court may also order a perpetrator to attend and participate in a behaviour change program as part of a Family Violence Order. Failure to complete a program made as a condition of this type of order constitutes an offence.

Sex offender programs

Community Corrections also works to strengthen Tasmania's capacity to manage and respond to complex and high-risk offenders including those convicted for sexual offending.

In response to Recommendation 16.17 of the Commission of Inquiry into the *Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings*, Community Corrections is continuing to expand its offering of community-based programs with the aim to reduce the risk of child sexual offending in our community.

Community Corrections clinicians deliver the Sex Offender Treatment Program to eligible offenders on community-based orders. During 2025-26, 51 offenders commenced intervention through this program, marking a significant advancement in community-based risk management for Tasmania.

Further information is available from www.justice.tas.gov.au/communitycorrections/programs.

Prevention and early intervention



Workforce Equality and Respect Standards in the Tasmanian Government [Action 27]

Agencies continued their focus on implementing the Workplace Equality and Respect Standards through initiatives that strengthen respectful and inclusive workplace cultures, prevent and respond to family violence, and enhance employee support and wellbeing.

Across the State Service, agencies reported significant investment in training and awareness programs, workplace behaviour and respectful workplace initiatives, Family Violence Contact Officer networks, and the development or review of policies and procedures that support gender equality, flexible work and safe workplaces. An example of this is the expansion of Family Violence Contact Officer networks and associated training, resources and support programs, reflecting a strong commitment

to providing practical support for employees affected by family violence.

Departments also highlighted efforts to build leadership capability, improve employee wellbeing supports and promote equitable access to opportunities, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to embedding the Workplace Equality and Respect Standards across organisational culture, systems and practices.

Work is progressing to develop a small set of outcome-focused indicators to support monitoring and reporting on implementation of the Standards across the State Service. While this work continues to be refined, it is intended that a limited number of key measures will be incorporated into the *2025-26 Tasmanian State Service Annual Report* to support greater visibility of progress and ongoing accountability.

Voice and diversity

SafeChoices Local Support Coordinator continued in North and North-West [Action 34]

SafeChoices is a non-crisis support service for Tasmanians experiencing family violence. The specialist family violence service provides early intervention, therapeutic and practical assistance and referrals to tailored support for individuals and families affected by family violence including those considering leaving an unsafe relationship.

Local Support Coordinator roles are based in the North, South and North-West providing a central access point for Tasmanian victim-survivors, particularly women with disability who are experiencing family violence, planning to leave a violent or controlling relationship, or have recently left. The focus is on empowering people to make informed choices, strengthen their safety, and move toward a future free from violence.

Further information is available from www.catholiccaretas.org.au/services/safechoices-family-violence-support.



Victim-survivor consultation to inform development of the Tasmanian Government's next response [Action 35]

During the reporting period, the then Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence endorsed a 12-month extension to Survivors at the Centre. This was to support the completion of a high-level independent evaluation of ten successive years of Tasmania's family and sexual violence action plan activity (2015-2025).

This evaluation is expected to provide important evidence about outcomes, system performance and areas for improvement that will inform future considerations. The Tasmanian Government commenced planning for the conclusion of *Survivors at the Centre*. This includes how victim-survivors could inform the whole-of-government planning.

Actions summary

The responsible Minister, Department and status of the 38 actions in *Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027* are reported as at 30 June 2026.

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.

Actions by Minister and status

38 Actions				
Responsible Minister	Responsible Department	Completed	Progressing	At-risk
Hon Jo Palmer MLC				
> Women and the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence	Premier and Cabinet	13	0	1
> Education	Education, Children and Young People	3	0	0
> Children and Youth	Education, Children and Young People	0	0	0
Hon Guy Barnett MP				
> Attorney-General	Justice	5	1	0
> Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation	Corrections and Rehabilitation	3	0	0
Hon Roger Jaensch MP				
> Community and Multicultural Affairs	Premier and Cabinet	0	1	0
Hon Bridget Archer MP				
> Aboriginal Affairs	Premier and Cabinet	0	0	0
> Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing	Health	4	1	0
Hon Felix Ellis MP				
> Police, Fire and Emergency Management	Police, Fire and Emergency Management	5	0	0
Hon Kerry Vincent MLC				
> Housing and Planning	State Growth (Homes Tasmania)	1	0	0
Subtotal		34	3	1

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	Completed	Prevention of Family and Sexual 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	Completed	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 highrisk 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 and Sexual Violence
	11	Continue the Family Violence Liaison Officer in the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line.	Continuing	Completed	Health

Actions summary at 30 June 2026

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 and Multicultural Affairs
	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 and Sexual 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 and Sexual Violence
	15	Continue to deliver the Rapid Rehousing Program.	Continuing	Completed	Housing and Planning
	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

Actions summary at 30 June 2026

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 ¹	Prevention of Family and Sexual 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 and Sexual Violence
	27	Continue embedding Workforce Equality and Respect Standards in Tasmanian Government Agencies.	Continuing	Completed	Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence
	28	Continue to deliver the Harmful Sexual Behaviours program for children and young people.	Continuing	Completed	Prevention of Family and Sexual 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

1. The Tasmanian Government is considering options to support delivery of the program, however it is currently assessed as 'at-risk' of completion by 2027.

Actions summary at 30 June 2026

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 Advisory Council.	New	Completed	Prevention of Family and Sexual 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 and Sexual 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 and Sexual 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 and Sexual 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 and Sexual 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 and Sexual Violence and Health

Family and sexual violence in Tasmania

In Tasmania, the legal definition of family violence covers forms of violence that may exist in the context of a significant relationship. Family violence is violent, abusive or controlling behaviour committed by a person against their current or former spouse or intimate partner. The *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas) defines family violence in Tasmania.

The data in this section is reported over a five-year reporting period. This provides sufficient historical depth to reveal meaningful long-term patterns, while smoothing out any temporary or short-term spikes or drops.

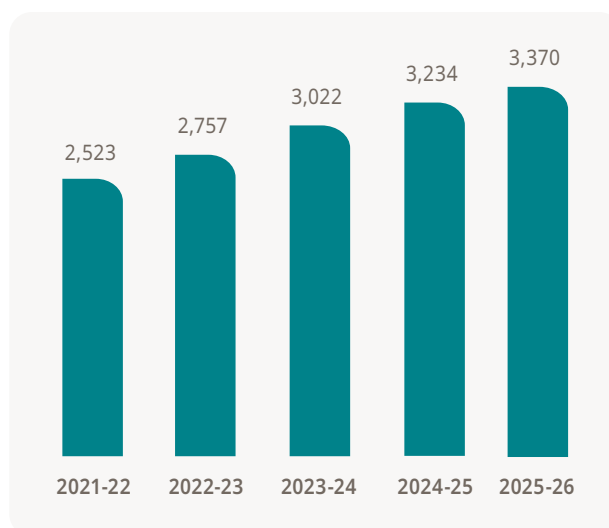
Family violence and related incidents

Family arguments and information reports

A family argument is an incident attended by police where the parties have a significant relationship, but no family violence has occurred. A family information report is a record by police about a situation between parties with a significant relationship which is not considered an incident of family violence. It is not possible to statistically separate family arguments and family information reports.

Over the five-year reporting period 2021-22 to 2025-26, the number of police recorded family arguments and information reports have increased. In 2025-26, the 4 per cent increase was lower than the increases in recent years.

Figure 1: Family arguments and information reports



Source: FVMS and Offence Reporting System 2, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, August 2026

Family violence incidents

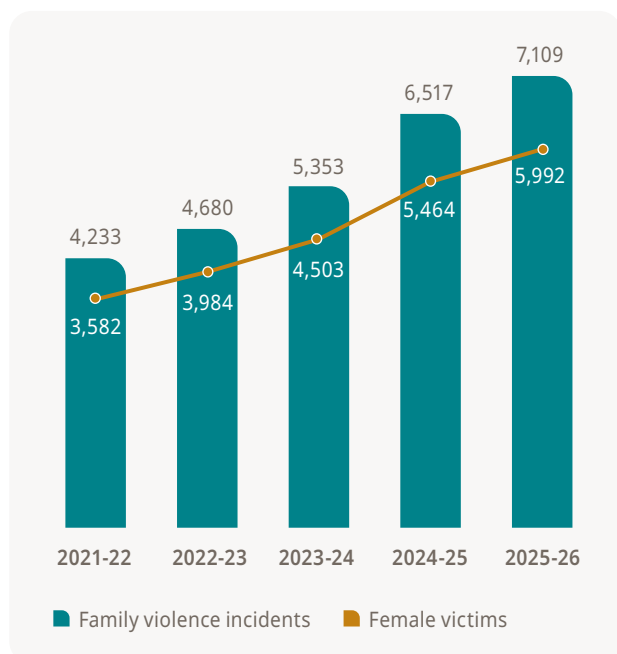
A family violence incident is an incident attended by police where the parties have a current or former significant relationship, and where family violence (according to the *Family Violence Act 2004*) has or is likely to occur.

The number of family violence incidents reported have continued to increase year-on-year between the reporting period 2021-22 to 2025-26, demonstrating an accelerating rate of reporting.

Following a 22 per cent increase in 2024-25, family violence incidents increased by 9 per cent in 2025-26. Females consistently comprised 84-85 per cent of victims in family violence incidents in each of the last five years.

This high percentage continues to mirror the overall trend of increased reporting of family violence incidents and is consistent with the disproportionate rates of violence against females across Australia.

Figure 2: Family violence incidents



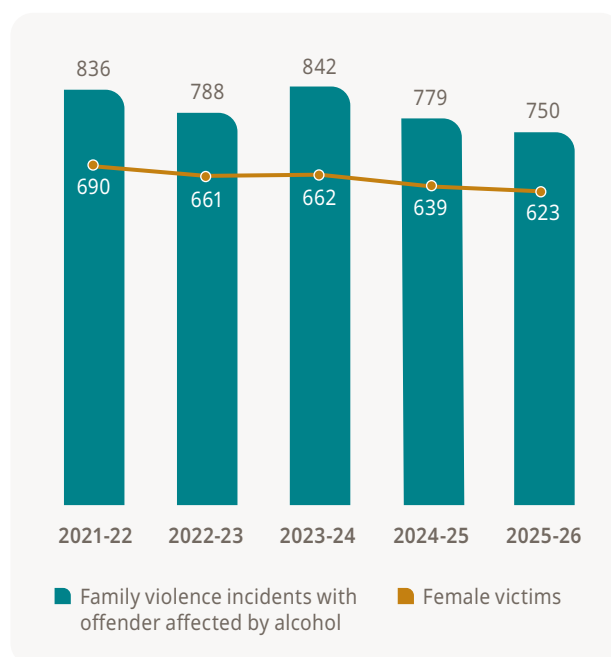
Source: FVMS and Offence Reporting System 2, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, August 2026

Note: Female victims are counted multiple times if victimised in multiple family violence incidents during a reporting period. A family violence incident may record multiple victims.

Offender affected by alcohol

The proportion of family violence incidents where the offender was reported by police to be affected by alcohol has decreased significantly over the past five years, from 20 per cent in 2021-22 to 11 per cent in 2025-26.

Figure 3: Family violence incidents with offender affected by alcohol



Source: FVMS and Offence Reporting System 2, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, August 2026

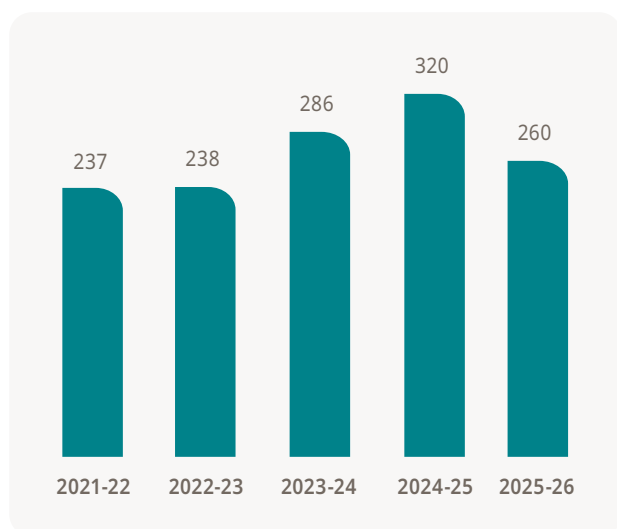
Note: Female victims are counted multiple times if victimised in multiple family violence incidents during a reporting period. A family violence incident may record multiple victims.

Weapons present

Weapon data is captured within three categories, including firearm, knife and other.

For 2025-26, all three categories of weapon were reported against by police. Weapons were identified to be present in between 4-6 per cent of family violence incidents in each reporting period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (where at least one weapon was present).

Figure 4: Family violence incidents with weapons present

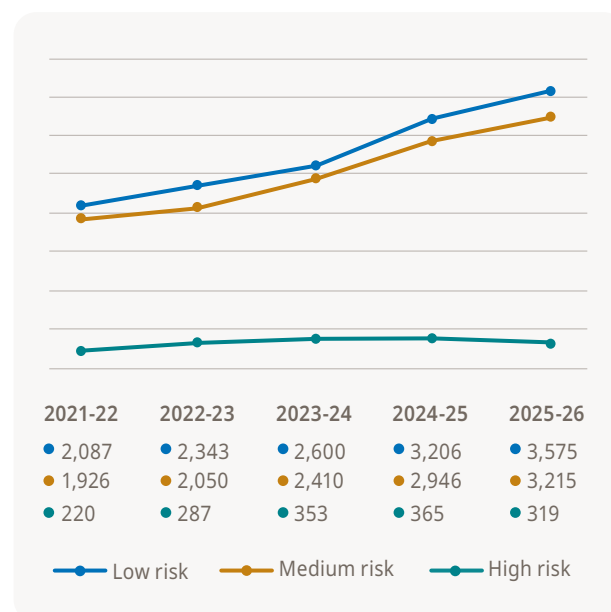


Source: FVMS and Offence Reporting System 2, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, August 2026

Risk category

A family violence incident is assessed by police using the Risk Assessment Screening Tool (RAST). Incidents are determined to be within three risk categories: low, medium or high.

Figure 5: Family violence incidents by risk category



Source: FVMS and Offence Reporting System 2, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, August 2026

Low and medium-risk family violence incidents have increased at a similar rate to total family violence incidents over the reporting period 2021-22 to 2025-26. Family violence incidents increased across all risk categories over the last five years, apart from a 13 per cent decrease in high-risk incidents in 2025-26.

Family Violence Orders and Police Family Violence Orders

Family Violence Orders

Family Violence Orders (FVO) are a court-issued order that imposes restrictions on an individual, if the court is satisfied that a person has committed and may again commit family violence. In accordance with the *Family Violence Act 2004*, applications for an order can be made by police, an affected person or other interested parties.

Family Violence Order application by police

The data in this report only reflects the number of FVO applications by police. Police attend a family violence incident where one or more FVO applications are recorded in the Family Violence Management System and subsequently lodged with the court.

The number of FVO applications by police are affected by regional variation, including whether FVO applications are lodged with the court manually or via the Family Violence Management System. For this reason, the data should be interpreted as an approximation of the number of FVO applications made by police to the court. In addition, the numbers do not reflect whether the applications were successful and resulted in an FVO issued by the court.

The proportion of family violence incidents with an FVO application made by police has decreased slightly over the last five years, from 8 per cent in 2021-22 to 6 per cent in 2025-26.

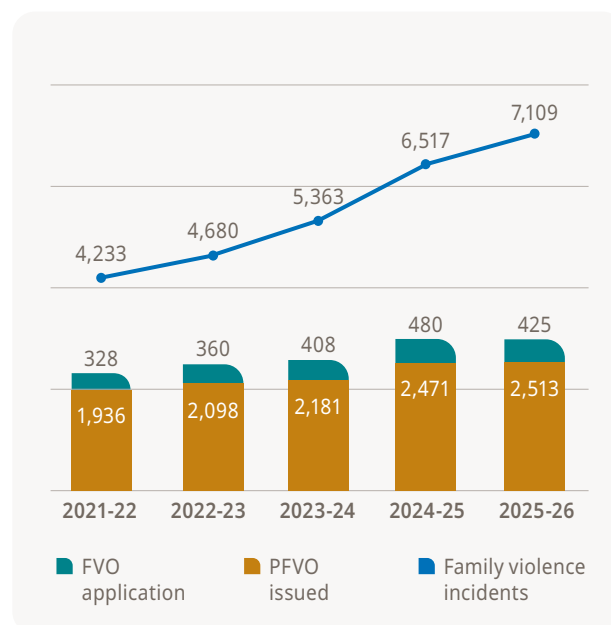
Police Family Violence Orders

Police Family Violence Orders (PFVO) are issued directly by police and impose similar restrictions on an individual as a Family Violence Order.

There was a 2 per cent increase in incidents with a PFVO issued in 2025-26, which followed a 13 per cent increase in 2024-25. While 46 per cent of incidents saw a PFVO issued in 2021-22, this fell to 35 per cent in 2025-26.

The data continues to demonstrate how the increased reporting flows through to the increased use of these family violence protection mechanisms.

Figure 6: Family violence incidents: Police Family Violence Order issued and Family Violence Order application by police



Source: FVMS and Offence Reporting System 2, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, August 2026

Breaches of Police Family Violence Order and Family Violence Order

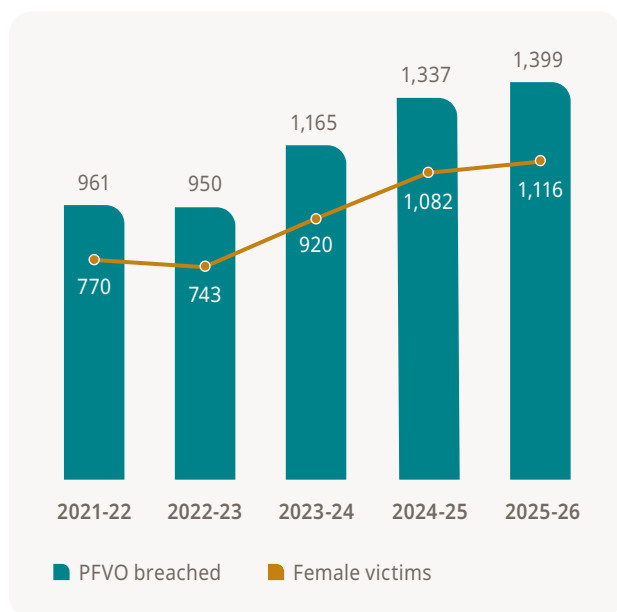
The breach of a Police Family Violence Order (PFVO) and Family Violence Order (FVO) is a serious criminal offence that can result in police arrest and custody until a court appearance. The penalty for breaches includes a monetary fine and/or imprisonment.

Over the five-year reporting period 2021-22 to 2025-26, the number of breaches for both order types follow the upward trend of family violence data.

Following large increases in 2023-24 (23 per cent) and 2024-25 (15 per cent), there was a 5 per cent increase in Breach of PFVO in 2025-26.

Breach of FVOs have more than doubled over the last five years, and females consistently comprise around 90 per cent of all victims in these cases.

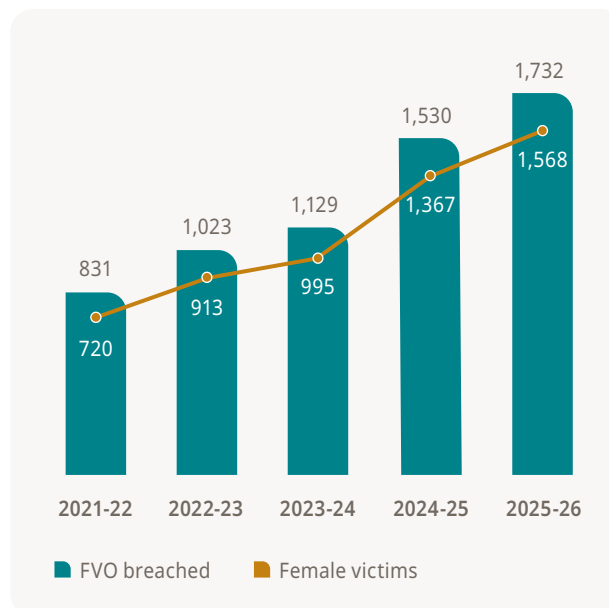
Figure 7: Breach: Police Family Violence Order



Source: FVMS and Offence Reporting System 2, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, August 2026

Note: Female victims are counted multiple times if victimised in multiple family violence incidents during a reporting period. A family violence incident may record multiple victims.

Figure 8: Breach: Family Violence Order



Source: FVMS and Offence Reporting System 2, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, August 2026

Note: Female victims are counted multiple times if victimised in multiple family violence incidents during a reporting period. A family violence incident may record multiple victims.

Sexual violence

Sexual violence is behaviour of a sexual nature directed towards a person that makes them feel uncomfortable, distressed or threatened and to which they have not consented. Sexual violence includes a wide range of unwanted, non-consensual, traumatic and harmful sexual behaviours.

Sexual assault is any unlawful sexual acts with or directly targeting another person. In Tasmania, sexual acts that constitute a criminal offence are included in the *Criminal Code Act 1924* (Tas) and the *Police Offences Act 1935* (Tas).

Sexual assault offences peaked at 768 in 2023-24, with females accounting for around 87 per cent of victims and then declined to 648 in 2025-26. Over the last five years, the proportion of female victims remained consistently high, comprising around 83 per cent of victims in 2025-26.

Figure 9: Sexual assault



Source: FVMS and Offence Reporting System 2, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, August 2026

Note: Female victims are counted multiple times if victimised in multiple family violence incidents during a reporting period. A family violence incident may record multiple victims.

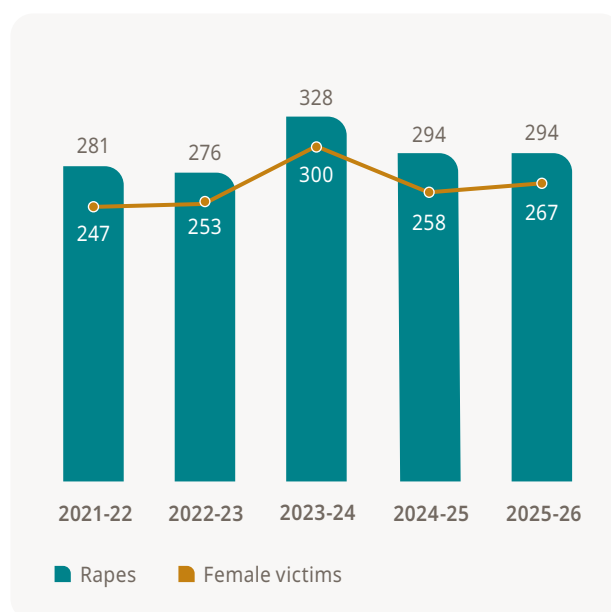
Rape

The offence of rape is defined in section 185(1) of the *Criminal Code Act 1924* (Tas). This offence is included in the total number of sexual assaults reported.

The number of rape victims peaked at 328 in 2023-24 but then declined slightly to 294 across 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Throughout the last five years, females consistently represented the vast majority (around 90 per cent) of victims.

Figure 10: Rape



Source: FVMS and Offence Reporting System 2, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, August 2026

Note: Female victims are counted multiple times if victimised in multiple family violence incidents during a reporting period. A family violence incident may record multiple victims.

What does this data mean?

The increases observed across Tasmania's family and sexual violence data in 2025-26 are consistent with trends seen across Australian jurisdictions and should not be interpreted in isolation as evidence that violence is becoming more prevalent. National data published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show continued increases in a range of family, domestic and sexual violence response measures, including reporting and service use.

Consistent with the process of change described in the Our Watch² publication *Counting on change*, increases in disclosure, reporting and service engagement are expected as violence becomes more visible and better understood within the community. While reporting and service data cannot measure prevalence, the continued growth in reporting and demand for support services may indicate that more Tasmanians are recognising violence and accessing support.

² Our Watch is the leader in primary prevention of violence against women. It is an independent notforprofit organisation working to embed gender equality and prevent violence where Australian live, learn, work and socialise. Further information is available at www.ourwatch.org.au.



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