

SURVIVORS AT THE CENTRE

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

**Progress Report
1 January - 30 June 2025**



**Tasmanian
Government**

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Minister's foreword

The Tasmanian Government remains steadfast in its long-term commitment to the prevention of family and sexual violence. Achieving this vision necessitates sustained and coordinated effort, so at the mid-point of *Survivors at the Centre 2022-2027: Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan* the progress achieved is encouraging and provides a foundation for continued implementation.

More than three quarters of the 38 actions have now been completed, with many embedded into the ongoing operations of Tasmanian Government agencies. This integration ensures that Tasmanians can access these supports and benefit from the investments that have already been made.

The Government acknowledges that continued effort will be required throughout the second half of the Action Plan and beyond its conclusion. Family and sexual violence remains a complex, evolving, whole-of-community issue that demands collaborative and innovative responses, addressing current needs while anticipating future challenges.



We continue to work collaboratively with the Australian Government and other states and territories to implement the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-32*. In February 2025, the Government signed the new Federation Funding Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-30 which provides matched funding of \$15.7 million over five years from July 2025.

Together, the Tasmanian community, which includes individuals, organisations and government, will continue this critical work building towards a safer Tasmania for women and children.

Hon Jane Howlett MP

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family 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 can help. For further information visit www.accesshub.gov.au.



Introduction

This Progress Report is for the period 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 for *Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027*.

The five-year action plan has now reached its mid-point, a point in time that reflects the successful implementation of time-bound initiatives that were front-loaded into the first half of the action plan. Some of these completed actions were discreet project-based activities, and others are now embedded as ongoing operations. During the second half of the action plan, actions will continue to progress towards completion.

The focus of this six-monthly progress report shifts towards reflecting the achievements of actions that may already be completed. These completed actions and ongoing activities continue to advance the collective commitment across government to reducing family and sexual violence and supporting victim-survivors across Tasmania.

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

Achievements:

1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025

The following activities occurred during the six-month reporting period.

Partnership and transformation



Electronic monitoring of high-risk family violence offenders [Action 7]

The Tasmanian Government's family violence electronic monitoring commenced in November 2018 as part of a trial delivered under the Family Violence Action Plan 2015-2020. In a unique application of electronic monitoring, as a condition of a court-issued Family Violence Order (FVO), this approach was implemented as a front-end strategy to enhance the safety of victims.

Electronic monitoring is used not only to monitor family violence offenders but also, most importantly, to enhance victim protection. Community Corrections within the Department of Justice continue to deliver electronic monitoring of high-risk family violence offenders, and family violence victim-survivors that choose to have a monitored duress alarm.

The number of monitored family violence perpetrators and victim-survivors continue to increase. There was a significant increase of 92 per cent in the number of high-risk perpetrators monitored between 30 June 2024 (37 high-risk perpetrators) and

30 June 2025 (71 high-risk perpetrators). The number of victim-survivors electing to be monitored also increased between 30 June 2024 (56 victim-survivors) and 30 June 2025 (79 victim-survivors), represented a 41 per cent increase in the 12 month period.

Child Health and Parenting Service delivers support for parents and children experiencing family violence [Action 6]

The Child Health and Parenting Service (CHaPS) provides free child health and development assessments for all children aged 0-5 years, with support available for families in areas including sleep and settling, feeding, behaviour, parenting confidence and capacity, and family wellbeing. CHaPS provide additional appointments to families who are identified at the universal service level as experiencing family violence.

During the reporting period 1 January to 30 June 2025, 148 additional appointments were provided to families for support related to family violence. When compared to 89 additional appointments during 1 July to 31 December 2024, this considerable increase was attributed to the service launching a new Family Violence Screening Tool in April 2025. This focus on screening and identification of family violence enabled increased levels of family violence support.

Further information is available from www.health.tas.gov.au/health-topics/child-and-youth-health/child-health-and-parenting-service-chaps.

Progressing legislative reforms to address Family and Sexual Violence [Action 8]

During the reporting period, several amendments were implemented for intimate partner or family and sexual violence legislative reform.

On 16 April 2025, two legislative amendments arising from the *Family Violence Amendment Act 2025* became law. These changes included:

- section 20 of the *Family Violence Act 2004* was amended to provide that an application for an extension to a FVO does not need to demonstrate a change in the relevant circumstances since the order was last made or varied, for it to be considered by the court; and
- section 34 of the *Family Violence Act 2004* was amended to provide that parties are responsible for their own costs in private FVO applications, other than in cases where the application is coercive, frivolous or vexatious.

On 16 June 2025, one legislative amendment arising from the *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Amendment Act 2025* became law. The amendment included:

- enabling a judge, the associate judge or the registrar of the Supreme Court to order editing of audiovisual recordings of affected persons' evidence (including child witnesses regarding family violence and child victims of alleged child sexual offences) to remove irrelevant, unduly prejudicial or otherwise inadmissible material.

Prior to this, only a Crown Law Officer could authorise editing which compromised efficient management of proceedings. This is a small but important contribution to the operation of this Act to facilitate participation in the criminal justice process by vulnerable witnesses.

Capacity building



Continue to provide legal assistance to people experiencing family and sexual violence [Action 18]

Tasmania Legal Aid and Women's Legal Service Tasmania continued to provide legal services to people experiencing family and sexual violence during the reporting period.

A case study from Tasmania Legal Aid demonstrates how the Safe at Home lawyer worked to support a victim of family violence and build their confidence in Tasmania's response to family violence.

Spotlight: Prue is supported by Tasmania Legal Aid



Prue and Tom were together for five years in a de facto relationship and Prue had two dogs at the beginning of the relationship. Tom began to drink alcohol heavily, and when intoxicated, became increasingly angry and manipulative towards Prue and she did not feel safe.

Prue contacted a friend who had previously received help from the Safe at Home system and was able to provide her advice about such services: the Safe at Home lawyer at Tasmania Legal Aid; **Safe Choices program**; **RSPCA Safe Beds for Pets program**; and Tasmania Police.

Prue consented to a referral to Safe at Home, which resulted in an appointment with the Tasmania Legal Aid Safe at Home lawyer. Prue consented to Tasmania Legal Aid requesting Orders from the Court Support and Liaison Service, even though she had not yet made any report to police.

During the initial appointment with the lawyer, Prue disclosed the family violence behaviors, including intimidation and emotional abuse.

The lawyer provided advice about the benefits of reporting to police and advice about the types of protective orders in Tasmania, the processes to obtain these Orders and what other options might be available to her. Prue had contacted Safe Choices herself for support.

Prue then made a report to police, and this resulted in charges and the issue of a Police Family Violence Order. The lawyer followed-up with Prue, who confirmed she had no questions about the Order conditions and was content with the Order. Prue was encouraged to report any future breaches to Tasmania Police and to call triple zero if she was in immediate danger.

Tom was charged with one count of emotional abuse and Prue engaged with the Court Support and Liaison Service for support and information in the criminal law process. With all her legal issues resolved at this time, Prue's file was closed.

Three months later, Prue contacted the Safe at Home lawyer via email with questions about Tom's behaviours. Tom without her consent had continued to use Prue's bank account to pay his gym membership and, without her knowledge or consent had continued to use Prue's online accounts such as Amazon Prime, which was linked to her bank account.

The Safe at Home lawyer acted on Prue's instructions and drafted a warning letter to be sent to Tom, to direct him to cease. Tom responded to the letter denying family violence but saying that he would pay any outstanding debts, if evidence of them was provided to him. Tom's response was sent to Prue for action, as she was content to pass the details on herself. This resulted in the debits for gym membership ceasing on Prue's bank account.

Names and details changed and merged for the purpose of de-identification.

Strengthen the Victims of Crime Service [Action 19]

In addition to operating the Victims of Crime Service which provides free and confidential service statewide to support people in managing the personal and practical challenges that arise from the impact of crime, the Department of Justice implemented an organisational restructure. Effective from 8 May 2025, Justice Support Services brought together key areas that protect and promote the rights of vulnerable Tasmanians and help those that are:

- victims of crime;
- experiencing family violence;
- victim-survivors of child sexual abuse; and
- vulnerable due to age, decision-making ability or communication needs.

This alignment aims to improve how the work is done to benefit people who access or rely on these services. There is no change to the way that people access each service. Further information is available from www.justice.tas.gov.au/about-us/justice-support-services.

Further information about the Victims of Crime Service is available from www.justice.tas.gov.au/victims/services/victims-of-crime-service.

Prevention and early intervention



Partnership with Our Watch [Action 26]

The longstanding Tasmanian Government partnership with Our Watch continued during the reporting period, with the Our Watch Senior Advisor continuing to strengthen stakeholder relationships, provide targeted advice and enhance sector capacity in primary prevention.

The work during this reporting period focused on the continued collaboration with the Department for Education, Children and Young People on the evidence-based, whole of school Respectful Relationships Education. The Department was also consulted during the development of a resource designed for policy and decision makers to support the successful implementation, coordination and monitoring of best practice Respectful Relationships Education. The *Our Watch Respectful relationships education: A blueprint for preventing gender-based violence through education systems* was released in May 2025. Further information is available from www.ourwatch.org.au/education/resources/blueprint.

The benefits of this collaboration were demonstrated after *Change the Story* workshops were attended by Tasmanian Government agencies in late-2024. This resulted in increased awareness by the Department of Health about the role of primary prevention in eliminating violence. The Department then sought assistance to include a primary prevention aspect to the redevelopment of the Tasmanian State Service family violence training.

The *Change the Story* workshops included significant attendance from the family and sexual violence sector, with registration numbers exceeding those seen for similar Our Watch workshops in held in other Australian jurisdictions. This outcome reflected the strong local interest in primary prevention work and the effectiveness of targeted promotion through the Senior Advisor's stakeholder network.

Other areas of engagement built on existing work to advance primary prevention efforts within and across Tasmanian sporting peak bodies and clubs. During the reporting period, *Our Watch Equality and Respect in Sport* workshops were delivered to Australian Football League (AFL) Tasmania personnel to strengthen gender equality and respect initiatives in the Tasmania Devils AFL Club.

Further information about Our Watch including *Change the Story* and *Equality and Respect in Sport* resources are available from www.ourwatch.org.au.

Continued delivery of the Harmful Sexual Behaviours program to young people [Action 28]

The Tasmanian Government continues to fund the Prevention, Assessment, Support and Treatment (PAST) Program, a statewide therapeutic service that works with persons 0-17 years who have engaged in problematic or harmful sexual behaviour. The Program is run by the Sexual Assault Support Service (South) in partnership with Laurel House (North and North-West).

Spotlight: Support for Craig and his foster carer



The PAST Program engagement supported Craig and his foster carer, to address significant harmful sexual behaviours that were directed towards him.

Craig, a young person in foster care with complex needs, was referred to the PAST Program in July 2024. Despite significant challenges, including neurodevelopmental trauma and multiple disabilities, the collaborative efforts of Mission Australia and the Sexual Assault Support Service created a strong foundation for support. The team worked closely with Craig and his foster carer, Claire, to understand his challenges and provide appropriate supports.

Through a client-centred and strengths-based approach, the therapeutic specialist conducted a thorough psychosocial assessment and identified key triggers for Craig's behaviours.

This led to tailored strategies that empowered Craig to regulate his emotions, seek help when needed, and express his wishes about family contact. Mission Australia complemented this work by developing a holistic case plan, advocating for Craig and Claire's voices to be heard, and streamlining professional supports. These actions fostered a sense of inclusion and clarity for both Craig and his carer.

These efforts led to real progress. Craig now feels his voice is heard for the first time, actively participating in planning family visits and creating visual tools to communicate his wishes. Claire reports feeling supported and Craig's harmful behaviours have reduced. The coordinated support has resulted in the foster care placement being more likely to succeed. Importantly, both Craig and Claire feel empowered and engaged in the process, highlighting the success of a collaborative, person-centred approach.

Names and details changed for the purpose of de-identification.

Voice and diversity



Safe Home, Safe Families Support Team continue to support children and families [Action 36]

The Safe Homes, Safe Families Support Team operates to support Tasmanian Government schools and Child and Family Learning Centres across the State. The Support Team comprises social workers and psychologists who respond to family violence notifications from the Safe Families Coordination Unit, and work collaboratively with Child and Family Learning Centres, principals and other school-based support staff to support children.

From 1 January 2025, the Safe Homes, Safe Families Support Team partnered with the Department for Education, Children and Young People *Working Together* for three-year-olds program. This new collaboration resulted in family violence notifications for children accessing early childhood education in childcare settings across Tasmania. During the reporting period 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025, the Support Team processed 40 notifications for 21 individual children participating in the *Working Together* program.

The new notification pathway and sustained increases in the number of notifications, demonstrates the ongoing importance of this support to children affected by family violence in Tasmania.

Aboriginal families supported by Aboriginal Family Safety Workers [Action 37]

To provide culturally appropriate and trauma informed support to Aboriginal families, an Aboriginal Family Safety Worker is based in three Child and Family Learning Centre across Tasmania:

- tagari lia Child and Family Learning Centre, Bridgewater (South);
- Ravenswood Child and Family Learning Centre (North); and
- Burnie Child and Family Learning Centre (North-West).

The Aboriginal Family Safety Workers undertake activities such as:

- offering family safety education;
- supporting access and referrals to specialist family violence supports and services;
- undertaking outreach activities to build connection; and
- working in partnership with families, creating strong and trusting relationship and building family capacity.

During the reporting period, other activities conducted in the North-West also included:

- supporting the delivery of the traumainformed evidence-based The Shark Cage Program, providing interventions designed to heal and empower women that have experienced family violence; and
- working in partnership with Aboriginal Early Years Education Worker to deliver Pataway Play playgroup for all children aged zero to five years to connect and learn about Aboriginal culture.

Status of the actions

The status of the 38 actions in *Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027* are reported at 30 June 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 30 June 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 | Progressing | 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 | Progressing | 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 | Education |

Status of actions at 30 June 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 | Progressing | 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 30 June 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 | Progressing | 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 | Education |
| | 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 |

Status of actions at 30 June 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 |

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.

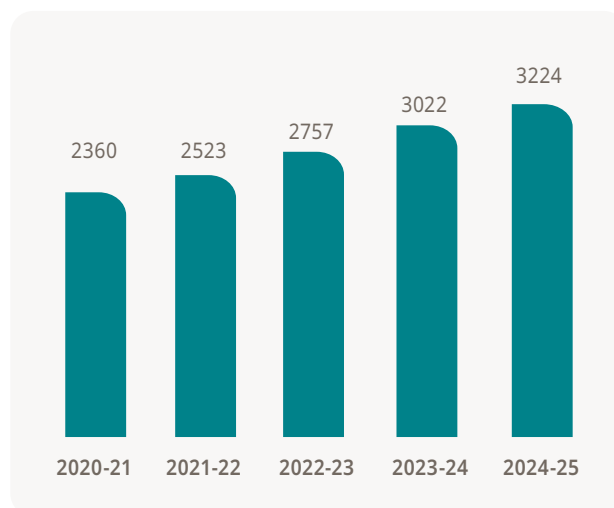
Family violence and related incidents

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 2020-21 to 2024-25, there was a steady increase of between seven and nine per cent each year in the number of police recorded family arguments and information reports.

Figure 1: Family arguments and information reports



Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, October 2025

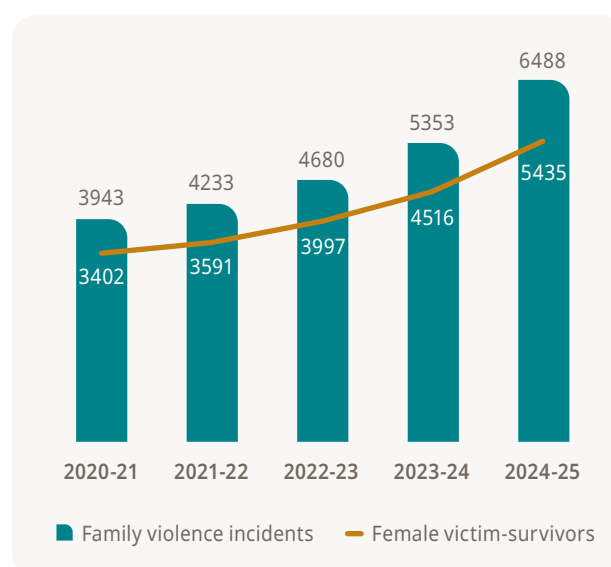
Family violence incidents

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 2020-21 to 2024-25, demonstrating an accelerating rate of reporting.

In 2024-25, female victim-survivors accounted for around 84 per cent of family violence incidents. 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 women across Australia.

Figure 2: Family violence incidents



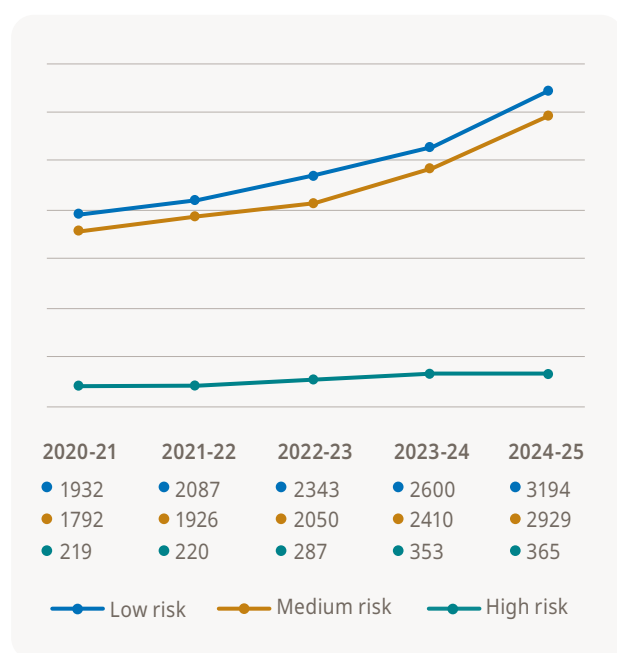
Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, October 2025

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

Family violence incidents with weapons present also followed an upwards trend. During the reporting period 2020-21 to 2024-25, the number of incidents with weapons present increased from 208 incidents to 318 incidents.

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 3: Family violence incidents by risk category



Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, October 2025

Low and medium-risk family violence incidents have increased at a similar rate to total family violence incidents over the reporting period 2020-21 to 2024-25. High-risk incidents also increased over the same period.

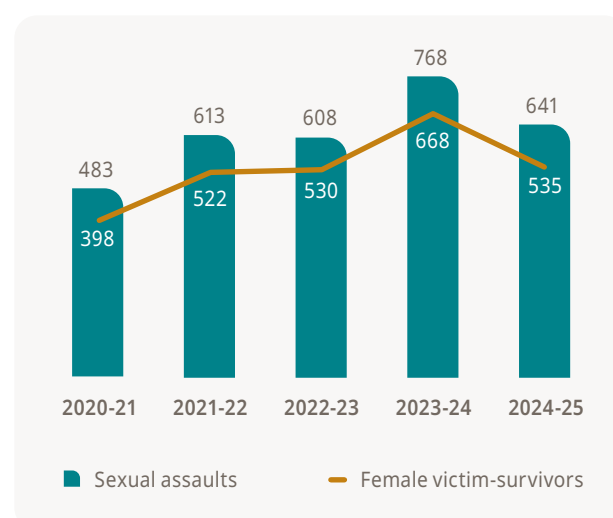
Sexual violence

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 in the *Criminal Code Act 1924* (Tas) and the *Police Offences Act 1935* (Tas).

In 2024-25, the reported number of sexual assaults decreased when compared to 2023-24. Females continue to be overly represented as the victim-survivor of reported sexual assaults. In 2024-25, female victim-survivors accounted for around 83 per cent of sexual assaults.

Figure 4: Sexual assaults



Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, October 2025

Police Family Violence Orders and Family Violence Orders

Family Violence Orders 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.

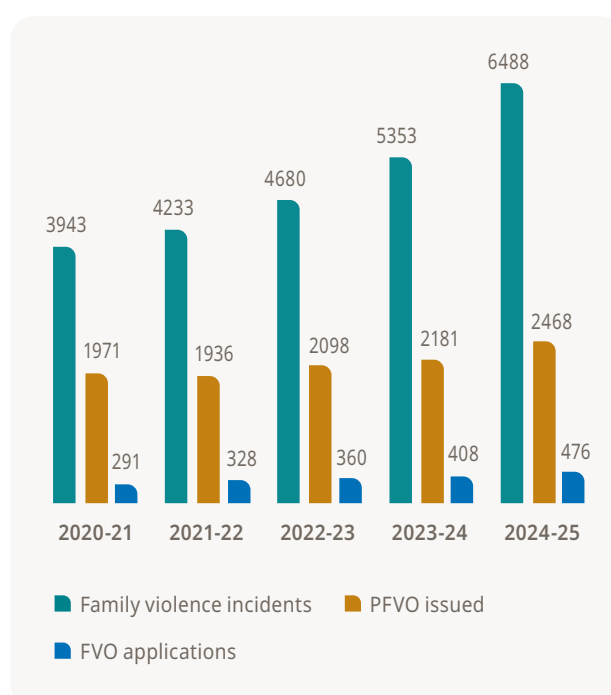
Police Family Violence Orders are issued directly by police and impose similar restrictions to Family Violence Order on an individual.

The number of Family Violence Order applications in Figure 5 does not fully reflect all applications made to the court.

In addition, this number does not reflect whether the applications were successful and resulted in a Family Violence Order issued by the court.

This comparison does demonstrate how the increased reporting flows through to the increased use of family violence protection mechanisms.

Figure 5: Family violence incidents: Police Family Violence Order issued and Family Violence Order applications



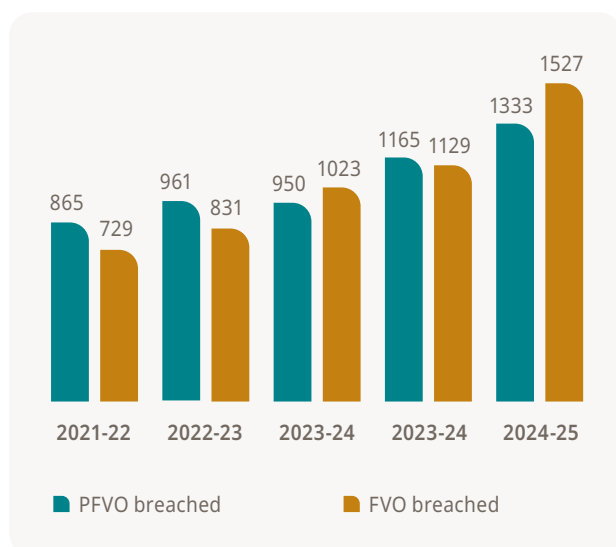
Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, October 2025

Breaches of Police Family Violence Order and Family Violence Order

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

Over the five-year reporting period 2020-21 to 2024-25, the number of breaches for both order types follow the upward trend of all family violence data. During the reporting period, there was an 18 per cent increase in Police Family Violence Order breaches and a 29 per cent increase in Family Violence Order breaches.

Figure 6: Breaches: Police Family Violence Order and Family Violence Order



Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, October 2025

What does this data mean?

It is important to understand that the increase demonstrated in the five-year trend data, does not necessarily indicate that family and sexual violence is becoming more prevalent. Rather, it is more likely to reflect growing community awareness, improved understanding of family and sexual violence, and increased confidence among individuals to seek help and engage with formal support systems.

Increased reporting is consistent with the expected process of change to prevent violence against women. In 2015¹, the Tasmania Government's inaugural family violence action plan commenced the journey and now ten years on, the 2024-25 data continue to demonstrate this trajectory, with increases in reporting and a subsequent increased demand for therapeutic services.

The Our Watch² publication *Counting on change* is a guide for policymakers, researchers and advocates on measuring population-level progress towards the prevention of violence against women and children in Australia. The *Summary of Counting on change: A guide to prevention monitoring* provides additional information about the expected process of change.

- 1 Safe Homes, Safe Families: Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan 2015-2020 (www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au)
- 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.



Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence
Department of Premier and Cabinet

fsvap@dpac.tas.gov.au | www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au

December 2025