



SURVIVORS AT THE CENTRE

RESPONDING AND REPORTING 2023

Achievements in the delivery of
*Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's
Third Family and Sexual Violence
Action Plan 2022-2027*

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Tasmanian Aboriginal People

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges and pays respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the past and present custodians of Tasmania and pays respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal Elders, past and present.

We acknowledge the devastating impacts of family and sexual violence in Aboriginal communities.

We recognise the ongoing leadership of Aboriginal communities in addressing and preventing family and sexual violence.

Acknowledgement of Victims and Survivors of Family and Sexual Violence

We pay our respects to victims and victim-survivors of family and sexual violence. We acknowledge their resilience and courage.

Victim-survivors are at the heart of our work to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence, and to hold perpetrators to account.

We also acknowledge the families and friends of those who have been killed because of family and sexual violence, and acknowledge that the devastating impacts can be widely felt in a family and community.

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Foreword..... | 3 |
| Family and Sexual Violence in Tasmania..... | 4 |
| Family violence..... | 4 |
| Sexual violence..... | 5 |
| Survivors at the Centre..... | 7 |
| Key achievements 2022-23..... | 10 |
| Partnership and Transformation..... | 10 |
| Capacity Building..... | 11 |
| Voice and Diversity..... | 13 |
| Case Study | |
| Arch Centres..... | 15 |
| Supporting specialist family and sexual violence services..... | 16 |
| Next steps..... | 17 |

Survivors at the Centre 2022-2023 snapshot



283 high-risk family violence incidents mapped by the Safe Families Coordination Unit

4,943¹ students affected by family violence in Tasmanian Government schools and Child and Family Learning Centres were supported² by the Safe Homes, Safe Families Support Team

194 clients provided with support, counselling and referral options by the Safe Choices service

2,163 family violence matters were submitted to Police Prosecution Services



319 children and young people received counselling services provided by the Australian Childhood Foundation³

7,196 Tasmanians were provided specialist community-based family and sexual violence services⁴

166 clients provided with legal assistance by Women's Legal Service Tasmania and Tasmania Legal Aid

135 women provided with safety upgrades to support them to remain in their own home or home of choice

1 The annual figure includes all the children listed across all the notifications (meaning an individual child can be listed more than once).

2 Either directly or through secondary consultation.

3 This is for clients supported under *Survivors at the Centre* funding, these were in addition to clients supported by other Government programs.

4 This figure is for full year 2022-23 and excludes services provided by the Australian Childhood Foundation.

Foreword

The Tasmanian Government remains committed to eliminating all forms of family and sexual violence.



Violence against anyone, in any form, is unacceptable. Family and sexual violence in Tasmania emerges within a complex set of economic, social and community circumstances. Overall, reported family violence incidents continue to increase and there is still a long way to go to eliminate all forms of family and sexual violence in Tasmania.

Since the launch of Tasmania's first action plan to respond to family violence in 2015, the Tasmanian Government has continued to build upon its commitment, investment, and scope in responding to family and sexual violence in Tasmania.

Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan (Survivors at the Centre), reaffirms the long-term commitment to eliminating family and sexual violence in our community. *Survivors at the Centre* builds on what works and includes new actions to refine and target efforts towards preventing and responding to family and sexual violence, while putting the voices of victim-survivors at the centre. The Tasmanian Government has committed \$100 million over the life of *Survivors at the Centre* to deliver actions.

During the reporting period, the Tasmanian Government prepared for the release of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings (Commission of Inquiry). Although falling outside the reporting period, the Tasmanian Government has now responded to the Commission of Inquiry's report and accepted all 191 recommendations.

The Tasmanian Government is deeply committed to a Tasmania where victim-survivors of family violence, sexual violence and child sexual abuse are believed, listened to, and are safe to speak up and speak out.

Improving systems and processes for victim-survivors of child sexual abuse will also result in positive outcomes for victim-survivors of family and sexual violence. The Tasmanian Government is committed to the cultural change required to have a safer Tasmania for all and most importantly for children and young people.

Responding and Reporting 2022-23 continues the Tasmanian Government's commitment to publicly report implementation progress and outcomes for *Survivors at the Centre*.

Key achievements during 2022-23 include:

- strengthened systems and justice-focused responses to family violence;
- new partnerships and transformations, for example, opening two multi-disciplinary centres;
- a suite of investments into prevention and early interventions;
- progress in recovery and healing initiatives; and
- responding to survivors' suggestions in relation to voice and diversity actions.

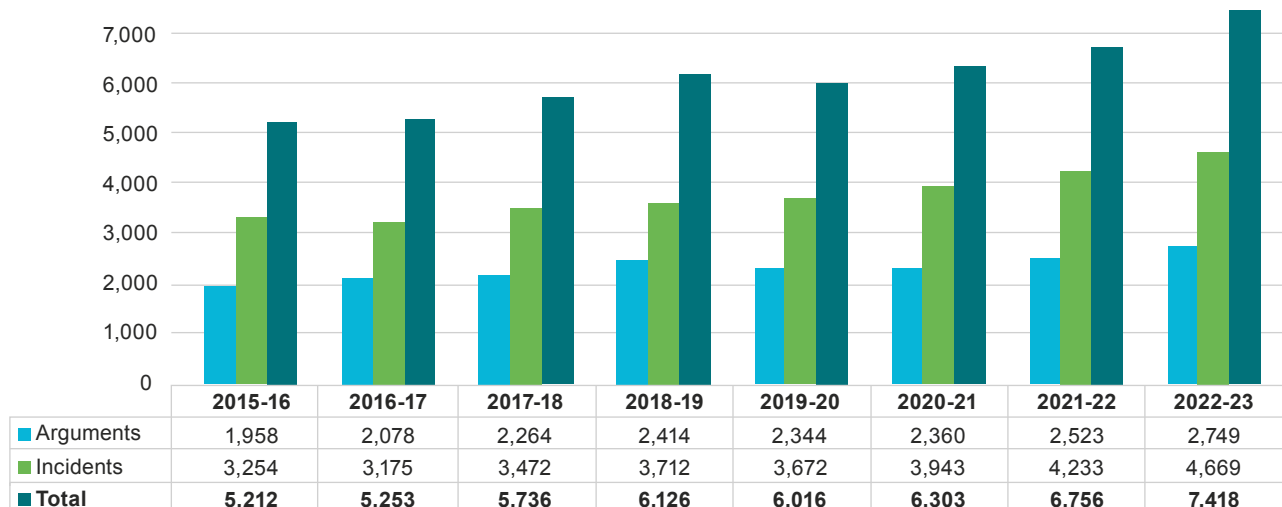
The Tasmanian Government will continue to work diligently across both national and state levels to achieve our commitment of eliminating all forms of family and sexual violence. It is serious and difficult work that requires deep reflection, listening and understanding.

Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
Minister for Women and the
Prevention of Family Violence

Family and Sexual Violence in Tasmania

Family violence

In 2022-23, Tasmanian Police Officers attended 4,669 family violence incidents and 2,749 occasions classified as family arguments or family information reports⁵. The graph below shows the reported incidence of family violence over the past eight financial years. The combined total of family violence arguments and incident reports has continued to increase since 2015-16.



Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management Reporting Services, August 2023.

There was an increase in the number of family violence incidents assessed as high-risk with 283 in 2022-23, compared with 218 in 2021-22. This is consistent with the eight-year average of 282 and is a 21 per cent reduction since 2015-16 when 359 high-risk incidents were reported.

Table 1: Family violence incidents in Tasmania by risk category

| | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022- 23 |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Low | 1,031 | 1,068 | 1,364 | 1,652 | 1,696 | 1,963 | 2,121 | 2,368 |
| Medium | 1,864 | 1,755 | 1,801 | 1,777 | 1,739 | 1,762 | 1,894 | 2,018 |
| High | 359 | 352 | 307 | 283 | 237 | 218 | 218 | 283 |
| Total | 3,254 | 3,175 | 3,472 | 3,712 | 3,672 | 3,943 | 4,233 | 4,669 |

Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management Reporting Services, August 2023.

⁵ A family argument is a dispute where family violence as defined in the *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas), has not been, and is not likely to be, committed. For example: A couple may engage in a loud argument that attracts the attention of a concerned neighbours who contact Tasmania Police. On arrival, Tasmania Police make an assessment about whether a situation is a family argument or family violence.

Over the eight-year period to 2022-23, medium-risk incidents increased by seven per cent and low risk incidents increased by 12 per cent. The increase in low-risk incidents – together with an increase in reported family violence arguments – has driven an overall increase of 10 per cent in total family violence arguments and incidents from the previous 2022-23 year (6,756). Overall, there has been a sustained reduction in the number of high-risk family violence incidents over this eight-year period.

This sustained level of reporting suggests a reduced level of tolerance for family violence in the community and by persons affected by family violence. It also shows an increased awareness and confidence in family violence response, intervention and support services.

Sexual violence

The number of sexual assaults recorded can vary significantly from year to year due to the proportion of victim-survivors who report the offence to police, and the reporting of historical sexual assaults. In 2022-23, 586 sexual assaults were reported to Tasmania Police which is a four per cent reduction from 2021-22. Overall, there was a 144 per cent increase over the eight-year average (357).

Table 2: Sexual Assaults recorded

| 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 240 | 249 | 220 | 240 | 227 | 483 | 613 | 586 |

Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management Reporting Services, August 2023.

38 per cent of sexual assaults reported in 2022-23 were committed a year or more before they were reported, some occurring several decades ago⁶. Females accounted for 87 per cent of victim-survivors. Most sexual assaults reported occurred at residential locations (76 per cent).

⁶ Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management Reporting Services, August 2023


Legislative amendments to strengthen legal responses to family and sexual violence

Since 2015 the Tasmanian Government, through the Attorney-General, has delivered a significant program of legislative changes in the family and sexual violence area.

Under *Survivors at the Centre*, implementing legislative reforms to strengthen legal responses to family and sexual violence continues to be a key priority, with several reforms commencing in the 2022-23 financial year.

On 22 August 2022, the *Criminal Code Amendment Act 2022* commenced and has made amendments to:

- Create a new standalone offence of strangulation, which occurs where a person intentionally and unlawfully chokes, suffocates or strangles another person; and
- Reflect that there is no free agreement to sexual intercourse in the event of certain conduct regarding condoms (that is, a person does not freely agree to an act of sexual intercourse if the person says or does anything to communicate to the other person that a condom must be used for sexual intercourse and the other person intentionally, before or during sexual intercourse, does not use a condom or tampers with or removes the condom).



On 20 September 2022, the *Family Violence Reforms Act 2022* received Royal Assent.

A phased proclamation of the Act is occurring, with the following miscellaneous improvements to the Act having commenced on 22 December 2022:

- Broadening the definition of ‘family violence’ to include additional specific offences, providing for alternative convictions for certain offences in the *Criminal Code*;
- Broadening the definition of ‘harassing’ to reflect that making unwelcome contact is a form of family violence; and
- Expansion of the list of conditions available under Police Family Violence Orders, to enhance the Safe at Home response in circumstances where a person has committed, or is likely to commit, family violence.

In mid 2024, the following additional provisions will be proclaimed after implementation arrangements have been finalised:

- Introduction of a new serial violence perpetrator declaration framework for repeat family violence perpetrators who repeatedly commit family violence offences against a single partner or multiple or successive partners; and
- Providing an option for the court to order mandated rehabilitation program participation as a condition of a Family Violence Order.

Survivors at the Centre

The Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-27

Survivors at the Centre includes 38 actions to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence in Tasmania.



Partnership and Transformation

New and Enhanced Actions

1. Pilot the establishment of two Multi-Disciplinary Centres in the North and South to provide survivor-centred, holistic and integrated responses to family and sexual violence (Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, DPFEM).
2. Expand the scope of the Safe Families Coordination Unit to undertake whole-of-Government data coordination and integration for family and sexual violence (DPFEM).
3. Investigate the Safe and Together Model, including providing professional learning on the model for the legal profession, community sector workers, and Government officers (DPAC).
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 (DPFEM).

5. Establishment of a family and sexual violence liaison service within the Tasmanian Health Service, which will provide Family Violence Liaison Officers state-wide to support clients who identify as experiencing family and sexual violence to access services (Department of Health, DOH).
6. Provide an additional appointment for parents and children who identify as experiencing family violence through the Child Health and Parenting Service (DOH).

Continuing Actions

7. Continue electronic monitoring of high-risk family violence offenders (Department of Justice, DOJ).
8. Continue to implement legislative reform to strengthen legal responses to family and sexual violence (DOJ).
9. Continue to roll out mobile phone data extraction devices to collect evidence of technology facilitated abuse (DPFEM.)
10. Continue to develop standardised risk assessment processes across Government and non-Government family and sexual violence services (DPAC).
11. Continue the Family Violence Liaison Officer in the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line (DOH).



Capacity Building

New and Enhanced Actions

12. Provide increased core funding to Tasmania's specialist family and sexual violence services with five-year contracts to enable funding certainty (DPAC).
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 (DPAC).
14. Investigate the establishment of a Tasmanian family and sexual violence peak organisation to improve coordination of family and sexual violence services and advice on policy development and service design (DPAC).

Continuing Actions

15. Continue to deliver the Rapid Rehousing Program (Homes Tasmania).
16. Continue to deliver flexible support packages (DOJ).
17. Continue to deliver the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes Program (DOJ).
18. Continue to provide legal assistance to people experiencing family and sexual violence (DOJ).
19. Strengthen the Victims of Crime Service (DOJ).
20. Continue to deliver perpetrator programs (DOJ).
21. Deliver mandated behaviour change programs, including as part of a family violence order, and for sex offenders (DOJ).
22. Continue to strengthen specialist police prosecution (DPFEM).
23. Continue to ensure forensic medical examinations for adult victim-survivors of family and sexual violence are a state-wide service (DOH).



Prevention and Early Intervention

New and Enhanced Actions

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, which builds understanding of consent, coercive control and grooming in the Tasmanian community (DECYP).
25. Expand the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program into a state-wide program⁷ to provide early intervention for adolescents that use violence in their families and with intimate partners (DECYP).

Continuing Actions

26. Continue the Tasmanian Government's membership of Our Watch and continuing the Our Watch Senior Advisor Role (DPAC).
27. Continue embedding workforce equality and respect standards in Tasmanian Government Agencies (DPAC).
28. Continue to deliver the Harmful Sexual Behaviours program for children and young people (DECYP).
29. Strengthen the Defendant Health Liaison Service to provide early intervention assessment and management services to respondents (DOH).
30. Continue to deliver the Men's Referral Service (DOJ).

⁷ Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program has not yet expanded to the North-West



Voice and Diversity

New and Enhanced Actions

31. Establish Tasmania's first Victim-Survivor Advisory Council (DPAC).
32. Deliver funding for community-based projects to support inclusion, access and equity for diverse Tasmanians who experience barriers for accessing support for family and sexual violence (DPAC).
33. Expand the Mothers Circle Pilot Program for culturally and linguistically diverse women of Tasmania, strengthening individual capacity to identify and respond to family and sexual violence (DPAC).
34. Continue the Safe Choices Local Support Coordinator role in the North and North-West of Tasmania, to ensure a state-wide service for women with disability experiencing family violence (DPAC).
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 comprehensive data of victim-survivor experiences (DPAC).

Continuing Actions

36. Continue to support children and families through the Safe Homes, Safe Families Support Team (DECYP).
37. Continue to support Aboriginal Families through the Aboriginal family safety workers in Child and Family Learning Centres (DECYP).
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 (DOH).

Key achievements 2022-23

Survivors at the Centre builds on actions established under the previous family and sexual violence action plans and introduces several new and enhanced actions.

The information below summarises achievements and/or key milestones achieved under each action outlined in *Survivors at the Centre* from 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.



Partnership and Transformation

New and Enhanced Actions

- **Action 1** - Two Multi-Disciplinary Centres or 'Arch' Centres opened in July and August 2023 in Launceston and Hobart, respectively. The Arch Centres provide survivor-centred, holistic and integrated responses to family and sexual violence. These centres are managed by a new Family and Sexual Violence Command within Tasmania Police. A further \$5 million has been committed to establish a third centre in the North-West.
- **Action 2** - The scope of the Safe Families Coordination Unit (SFCU) has been expanded to undertake whole-of-Government data coordination and integration for family and sexual violence. Before this enhanced action, the SFCU's scope was to examine only family violence; such reports may have previously included sexual violence. The SFCU now analyses and coordinates data for all reports of sexual violence, which now supports all victims-survivors and the Arch service delivery.
- **Action 3** - The Safe and Together (S&T) model creates systems and practice that is child-centred, keeping children safe and together with the protective parent and holding perpetrators to account for their family violence behaviours. S&T is internationally recognised as a best practice model of an evidence-based way of working with family where family violence is present. Staff from various Government agencies attended the S&T training course in early 2024.
- **Action 4** - Next-generation DNA instruments are onsite at DPFEM facilities and are undergoing validation. They will provide forensic scientists with an improved environment and next-generation technology to analyse DNA. A project has commenced to increase the capacity for refrigerated storage of sexual evidence kits, ensuring that the forensic medical examination service is state-wide.
- **Action 5** - The Family and Sexual Violence Liaison Service (Liaison Service) is being established in the Tasmanian Health Service. The Liaison Service will provide new Liaison Officers to the Tasmanian Health Service and Child Safety Service and incorporate the continuing Family Violence Liaison Officer to the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line. The Liaison Service will support services within the Tasmanian Health Service, Child Safety Service and Strong Families Safe Kids to strengthen responses to family and sexual violence and improve outcomes for victim-survivors.
- **Action 6** - Since early 2023, DOH has offered an additional appointment for 40 families with children who have identified as experiencing family violence through the Child Health and Parenting Service. This is an important proactive step to address the intergenerational cycle of family violence.

Continuing Actions

- **Action 7** - High risk family violence offenders continued to be electronically monitored. Across the financial year, each month an average of 33.6 high-risk family violence perpetrators were subject to electronic monitoring under a condition of a Family Violence Order. Additionally, an average of 39.8 high-risk family violence victim-survivors carried an electronically monitored duress alarm that helps support an immediate police response when victim-survivors experience heightened risk. Key successes were achieved through a broad focus on community safety outcomes by targeting both perpetrator risks and victim-survivor needs through independent, but related strategies. The program has now formally transitioned to a joint operational framework between DPFEM and DOJ.
- **Action 8** - A total of 10 legislative amendments were introduced and implemented to strengthen legal responses to family and sexual violence.
- **Action 9** - Mobile phone data extraction devices to collect evidence of technology-facilitated abuse have been superseded by technology. Digital Examination Kiosks have been installed in Arch Centres. The kiosks extract data from mobile phones to enable collection of evidence of technology-facilitated abuse.
- **Action 10** - The Tasmanian Government continued to develop standardised risk assessment processes across Government and non-Government family and sexual violence services. A formal pilot of the Tasmanian and Rural Risk Assessment (TARRA) tool, following training for the specialist family violence services, will be undertaken during 2023-24. This pilot will include developing pathways to provide the de-identified data captured through this process, to better inform the understanding of risk and safety for victim-survivors.
- **Action 11** - The Family Violence Liaison Officer continued their role in the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line. During 2022-2023, staff training was undertaken in the areas of family violence and assessing risk and safety.



Capacity Building

New and Enhanced Actions

- **Action 12** - Increased core funding of \$1.044 million was delivered to Tasmania's nine specialist family and sexual violence services. A key commitment was the implementation of five-year contracts to provide greater certainty and increased capacity to respond to demand in the longer term.
- **Action 13** - A total of 37 people with 62 pets accessed the RSPCA's Safe Beds for Pets program. The program provides emergency boarding arrangements through a network of pet hosts for pets of Tasmanians in at-risk situations due to family and sexual violence.
- **Action 14** - The Tasmanian Government has entered an agreement with the Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS) to investigate a new Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Peak organisation, which will improve coordination of family and sexual violence services and advice on policy development and service design.

Continuing Actions

- **Action 15** - A total of 50 properties were available through the Family Violence Rapid Rehousing Program as of 30 June 2023. From July 2019 to June 2023, there were 91 additional units of crisis and transitional accommodation completed. This included 35 additional units for women in the North and South, 25 units for men in the South and 31 units for young people in the North and North West. As of 30 June 2023, there were 195 applicants for Family Violence Rapid Rehousing.
- **Action 16** - In 2022-23, the Safe at Home Coordination Unit administered flexible support package⁸ funding to 128 victim-survivors of family violence who had fled or were planning to flee an abusive relationship. Flexible support packages are designed to contribute to a holistic response to people experiencing family violence by providing practical supports to enhance safety and wellbeing when leaving an abusive relationship.

8 This includes cases where funding was finalised to provide support.

- **Action 17** – During the reporting period, the Safe at Home Coordination Unit administered funding and coordinated contractors to complete security upgrades to the homes of 135 women. This included installing new solid core doors, deadlocks, security screens, door viewers and sensor lights.
- **Action 18** - A total of 166 victim-survivors received legal assistance from Legal Aid Tasmania and Women's Legal Service Tasmania.
- **Action 19** - 1233 victim-survivors were contacted through the strengthened Victims of Crime Service. There were 160 new client contacts through the Victims of Crime Service.⁹ The Victims of Crime Service operates within Victims Support Services DOJ and supports people to deal with personal and practical problems associated with the impact of crime, to allow them to regain control of their lives.
- **Action 20** - A total of 205 family violence perpetrators were provided with a Government rehabilitative service. A total of 257 family violence perpetrators were assessed and participated in a community-based rehabilitative service.
- **Action 21** - One of the amendments made under *the Family Violence Reforms Act 2022*, which will commence by proclamation, includes the introduction of an option for the court to order mandated rehabilitation program participation as a family violence order condition.
- **Action 21 (continued)** - A Complex and High-Risk Offender Specialist has commenced with Community Corrections to deliver a community-based treatment pathway for sex offenders who are otherwise unable to access mainstream services and support. The specialist will also offer case management and case supervision support to probation officers managing high-risk sex offenders and high-risk offenders in the community.
- **Action 22** - Specialist police prosecutions continued to be strengthened. A total of 2,163 family violence matters¹⁰ were submitted to Prosecution Services.
- **Action 23** - 21 forensic medical examinations were performed statewide for victim-survivors of family violence, and 137 sexual assault forensic medical examinations were performed for victim-survivors of sexual assault.
- **Action 24** - A dedicated position was established in DECYP to work with Tasmanian Government schools to embed Respectful Relationships education that is aligned to the Australian curriculum. The voice of children and young people and key stakeholders have been central to updating the suite of resources that builds understanding of consent, coercive control and grooming in the Tasmanian community.
- **Action 25** - Following a successful pilot during the period of the previous Action Plan, the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program delivered by Colony 47 was expanded to northern Tasmania. The program provides early intervention for adolescents that use violence in their families and with intimate partners.



Prevention and Early Intervention

New and Enhanced Actions

- **Action 24** - A dedicated position was established in DECYP to work with Tasmanian Government schools to embed Respectful Relationships education that is aligned to the Australian curriculum. The voice of children and young people and key stakeholders have been central to updating the suite of resources that builds understanding of consent, coercive control and grooming in the Tasmanian community.
- **Action 25** - Following a successful pilot during the period of the previous Action Plan, the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program delivered by Colony 47 was expanded to northern Tasmania. The program provides early intervention for adolescents that use violence in their families and with intimate partners.

Continuing Actions

- **Action 26** - During 2022-23, Our Watch's Senior Advisor continued to provide high-level advice and support to Tasmanian Government departments implementing Our Watch's Workplace Equality and Respect Standards (WERS) and conducted targeted engagement with key stakeholders across Tasmania including Government and non-Government stakeholders. A focus of the engagement with DECYP has been to explore opportunities to support Respectful Relationships and Consent Education in Tasmanian schools.
- **Action 27** - Tasmanian Government agencies continued embedding WERS. All agencies developed WERS indicators to measure the performance of the Tasmanian State Service on workplace equality and respect.

⁹ In the North and North West regions.

¹⁰ This number counts all incidents, not unique people on incidents.

- **Action 28** - The Sexual Assault Support Service continued to deliver Harmful Sexual Behaviours programs for children and young people. Primary, secondary and tertiary therapeutic programs and training courses were conducted for 422 participants and clients across Tasmania.
- **Action 29** - In 2022-23, the Defendant Health Liaison Service which provides early intervention assessment and management services to respondents was strengthened. A minimum of 168 new clients accessed the Defendant Health Liaison Service. The Defendant Health Liaison Service recruited one of two vacant positions. Recruitment for the third position is continuing. The recruitment of the North-West Defendant Health Liaison Officer has provided an opportunity to follow up northern referrals and increase service provision.
- **Action 30** - In 2022-23, there was a total of 220 perpetrators of family violence who accessed information and referral to the Men's Referral Service.
- **Action 33** - The Mothers Circle Pilot Program aims to strengthen the capacity of culturally and linguistically diverse women to identify and respond to family and sexual violence. The Program Officer was recruited in early 2023 and group work is being conducted.
- **Action 34** - 194 Safe Choices clients with a disability were supported through the Local Support Coordinator, an increase from 179 in the previous year. An additional case worker, in the North and North-West, was recruited to support women with disability who experienced family violence by providing information, advice, and practical support.
- **Action 35** - The results from the Hearing Lived Experience 2022 have been used to inform other actions *in Survivors at the Centre* including helping to establish the work of the Victim-Survivor Advisory Council.
- **Action 36** - 4943 individual children and young people¹¹ who were affected by family violence were supported¹² by the Safe Homes, Safe Families professional support team at Tasmanian Government schools or Child and Family Learning Centres.
- **Action 37** - 198¹³ Aboriginal families supported by Aboriginal Family Safety Workers in Child and Family Learning Centres (minimum number based on families that have identified as Aboriginal).
- **Action 38** - Increased counselling services for children and young people experiencing family violence was provided through the Australian Childhood Foundation and the Family Violence Counselling Support Service Children and Young Persons Program. 319 children and young people received counselling services provided by the Australian Childhood Foundation (comprising 3838 hours of service provided¹⁴).



Voice and Diversity

New and Enhanced Actions

- **Action 31** - The Tasmanian Government is in the process of establishing Tasmania's first Victim-Survivor Advisory Council. The council will be established in a way that is trauma-informed, respectful, and reflective of diversity. A workplan will be developed in consultation with advisory council members.
- **Action 32** - The *Family and Sexual Violence: Supporting Diverse Communities Grants Program 2023-24* was launched during the reporting period and was open until 1 August 2023. The grants program focuses on the delivery of community-based projects and/or enhanced service capability to support inclusion, access and equity for diverse people and groups who experience barriers to support for family and sexual violence.

11 The annual figure includes all the children listed across all the notifications (meaning an individual child can be listed more than once).

12 Either directly or through secondary consultation.

13 AFSWs may work with families on numerous times across each reporting quarter. The annual figure of 198 for the 2022-2023 period is not comparable to the 2021-2022 figure due to a change in Child and Family Learning Centres amended data collection and reporting processes to more accurately reflect support provided to Aboriginal families.

14 This includes 2,099 hours of direct service provided.



Case Study

Arch Centres

The Tasmanian Government has partnered with the following services and organisations to support people affected by sexual harm:

- Laurel House
- Sexual Assault Support Service
- Tasmania Police
- Family Violence Counselling and Support Service
- Child Safety Services, and
- Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line.

The organisations work together to provide coordinated, collaborative, trauma-informed and victim-centred support. The organisations are housed in Arch centres and the first two Arch Centres opened mid-2023, in Launceston and Hobart.

In total the Government has allocated \$20.1 million for the pilot over two years, which includes an additional \$5 million to establish a third Arch Centre in North-West Tasmania.

The establishment of Arch centres are one of the central initiatives of *Survivors at the Centre* which aim to deliver support for victim-survivors and avoid re-traumatisation.

Arch Centres provide:

- A safe and welcoming space where people are supported to be themselves.
- Access to information, support and specialist police investigators at one location in an immediate, clear and connected way.
- Opportunities for Arch service providers to build stronger relationships and enhance service delivery.
- A supportive environment to report sexual violence which may prevent further offences from occurring (including if a person chooses not to make a formal complaint).
- A supportive environment for evidence to be preserved which ensures that options are available to a victim-survivor in the future.

Arch Centres will put people affected by sexual violence at the centre of service delivery. The centres address some of the barriers and challenges people have faced previously when attempting to navigate different services and systems.

Case Study

Supporting specialist family and sexual violence services

The Tasmanian Government has provided increased core funding to Tasmania's nine specialist family and sexual violence services. During the reporting period, core funding to these services was increased by 37 per cent. The Government is committed to entering five-year grant agreements to provide funding certainty once existing agreements conclude.

The nine specialist family and sexual violence services with increases to core funding include:

- Anglicare Tasmania (Relationship Abuse of an Intimate Nature)
- Engender Equality
- Huon Domestic Violence Service
- CatholicCare Tasmania (Safe Choices)
- Laurel House (delivering services in the North, North-East and North-West)
- Sexual Assault Support Service (delivering services in the South)
- Yemaya Women's Support Service (delivering services in the North)
- Family Violence Counselling Support Service (delivering services through DOH)
- Australian Childhood Foundation (delivering services through DECYP).

As well as offering specialist therapeutic services, these frontline providers also offer information, education, and training to the community and to other providers about primary prevention and early intervention approaches.

These organisations provide support to victim-survivors statewide through in-person,

office-based appointments, telephone/video calls, including some outreach appointments in rural and remote locations.

In 2021-22 the community-based family violence services reported provision of specialist services to 9,103 Tasmanians.

During 2022-2023 the community-based family violence services worked with DPAC on new data collection, definitions, and reporting. The new data collected showed that to June-2023 there were 920 new clients who accessed specialist services, the total number of clients (new, existing, and returning) was 4,834.

The Tasmanian and Rural Risk Assessment (TARRA) tool is an action from *Survivors at the Centre*. The TARRA was co-designed with the family violence service sector with input from the sexual violence services. This safety assessment tool has been trialled and evaluated by the community-based family violence services. Training for the TARRA will ensure a knowledgeable and consistent approach as well as more robust data across the community-based service system. This will ensure the safety and requirements of victim-survivors in Tasmania are met.

Over the full year 2022-23 the community-based sexual violence support services supported 2,362 clients. The services provided crisis responses, attending 114 Forensic Medical Examinations (FMEs), and received 555 after hours calls. The funded family and sexual violence services provided support to victim-survivors statewide through in-person office based appointments, telephone / video calls and through outreach appointments in rural and remote locations such as King Island, the west-coast through to the Dunalley Tasman Peninsula.

Next steps

In 2023-24, implementation of actions in *Survivors at the Centre* will continue. *Survivors at the Centre* is a living plan and it will continue to evolve in line with the emerging evidence base and victim-survivor centred advice as well as recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry.

Key milestones and actions for the 2023-24 financial year include but are not limited to:

- Increasing collaboration between the Women's portfolio and Family and Sexual Violence portfolio within DPAC to deliver *Survivors at the Centre* and *Equal means Equal: Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2022-2027*.
- Working together will enable an integrated approach to preventing and responding to family and sexual violence through addressing the social drivers of violence. This includes the development of:
 - A Gender Impact Assessment Toolkit, which will support Tasmanian Government agencies and the wider community to analyse the gendered impact of policies, programs, services, and decision-making.
 - An Outcomes Framework to help form indicators and datasets to help drive outcomes in gender equality.
- Establishing the Victim-Survivor Advisory Council, including the development of a workplan in collaboration with advisory council members.
- Encouraging cross-sector collaboration through working with TasCOSS to form a project and workplan for a Tasmanian family and sexual violence peak organisation. The work will consider recommendations made in the Commission of Inquiry report.
- Continuing to investigate the applicability of the Safe and Together Model for use across Government.
- Launch of projects under the *Supporting Diverse Communities Grants Program 2023-24*.
- Expand the scope of the Safe Families Coordination Unit to undertake whole-of-Government data coordination and integration for family and sexual violence and employing three more analysts.
- Enhancing preventative program approaches, including embedding the Respectful Relationships and Consent Education suite of resources.

During the 2023-24 financial year, the Tasmanian Government will be focused on the initial stages of implementing the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry. This work will have an impact on service delivery of family and sexual violence services.

The Tasmanian Government is dedicated to ensuring victim-survivors of family violence, sexual violence and child sexual abuse is central to the work of all agencies.



Email: fsvap@dpac.tas.gov.au | Visit: www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au

If you or someone you know is impacted by family violence:

Call the Safe at Home Family Violence Response and Referral Line on 1800 633 937

If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual violence:

Call the Statewide Sexual Assault Crisis Line on 1800 697 877

In an emergency, always call 000

For more information, visit www.1800respect.org.au or www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au

If you are deaf, have a hearing impairment or have complex communication needs, phone the National Relay Service on 13 36 77 or the Speech-to-Speech Relay Service on 1300 555 727.