



# **SURVIVORS AT THE CENTRE**

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

**November 2022**

## 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 as a result of family and sexual violence and acknowledge that the devastating impacts can be widely felt in a family and community.

## Thank You

This Action Plan has been informed by a significant community conversation in Tasmania, and nationally, about family and sexual violence. To develop this Plan our intention has been to provide as many ways as possible for Tasmanians to make contact with us, and share their experiences, thoughts and ideas.

Hundreds of Tasmanians have engaged in this process. Many people have courageously shared their stories of family and sexual violence; victim-survivors, family and friends of loved ones who have been killed as a result of family and sexual violence, service providers who work with dedication to meet the needs of victim-survivors, to advocate for those who face barriers to services, and to hold perpetrators to account. We have also heard from many concerned Tasmanians who have not been directly affected by family and sexual violence, but who want to ensure that their children grow up in a Tasmania free from violence.

We are deeply grateful for the feedback we have received and thank every person who has contributed and are continuing to contribute. We would like to thank Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Mayor of the Northern Midlands Council. Mayor Knowles is a tireless advocate for victim-survivors of family and sexual violence. We are galvanised by the resilience, creativity and courage of survivors, their families and friends to take this historic step in the Tasmanian Government's long-term investment in family and sexual violence prevention and response. We have listened and we are listening.

This Action Plan represents the most significant reform of the family and sexual violence service system since the release of our first Family Violence Action Plan in 2015. It strengthens a system that puts survivors at the centre and is the result of a consultation that has survivors at its heart.

# Preface to *Survivors at the Centre*

## Family and Sexual Violence in Aboriginal Communities

The Tasmanian Government recognises that violence against Aboriginal women and their children is disproportionate and severe.

Three in five Aboriginal women have experienced physical and sexual violence perpetrated by a male intimate partner, and Aboriginal women are 11 times more likely to lose their lives to assault than non-Aboriginal women.

The Tasmanian Government has committed to take specific and significant action to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence in Aboriginal Communities. Closing the Gap commits us to 'a significant and sustained reduction in violence against Aboriginal women and girls towards zero' (Target and Outcome 13).

To achieve this outcome we are funding a specific position to work in partnership with Aboriginal organisations to collaboratively develop and mutually agree specific actions and strategies. This work will be undertaken in the first year of *Survivors at the Centre*, and actions will be built into our living plan from 2023-24.

## Safeguarding Children and Young People

*Survivors at the Centre* has been developed in the context of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.

The stories and testimony of sexual violence that have been shared through the Commission, and the long-term and ongoing impacts of this abuse in the lives of survivors, victims, their families and friends, and the broader community is devastating and inestimable.

The Tasmanian Government is deeply committed to learning from the past, hearing the stories of victim-survivors, and ensuring that children and young people are safeguarded now and into the future.

This Action Plan outlines the Tasmanian Government's integrated, whole of government Plan to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence. This includes initiatives that seek to safeguard children and young people from sexual violence.

As a living Plan, *Survivors at the Centre* will evolve and change in response to the voice of victim-survivors, the ongoing findings of the Commission, and its recommendations to be provided to the Tasmanian Government in 2023.

There is no higher priority for our Government than a Tasmania free from violence, where children are safe, and this Action Plan will continue to be built upon as we take the necessary steps to realise this vision.

## Seeking help

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

If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual violence, please call the Statewide Sexual Assault Support Service on 1800 697 877 (1800MYSUPPORT).

In an emergency always call 000.

For further information visit [www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au](http://www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au)

*“I know personally the benefits of telling my story and sincerely hope that sharing your story will not only give you strength but enable Government funding to be spent in a way that will benefit those who need help in the future.”*

Mary Knowles OAM, Mayor, Northern Midlands Council

*“The Tasmanian Government is deeply committed to ending all forms of family and sexual violence. Breaking the silence around family and sexual violence is an important part of stopping it at the start – silence enables perpetrators to continue their violence. I pay tribute to those victim-survivors, their families and supporters who have shared their stories with us. Your lived experience will make a difference. We are listening and will continue to listen, and we will champion the message that all forms of violence are unacceptable in Tasmania.”*

Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, Premier of Tasmania, Minister for Health, and Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

*“Your courage, determination, spirit and tenacity to have your voices be heard is overwhelming and we stand with you, for a state where all Tasmanians; regardless of age, sex or race, should feel safe, equal and respected, and that our homes, families and communities should be free from all forms of family and sexual violence.”*

Hon Jo Palmer MLC, Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

*“By listening to people with lived experience and working collaboratively together to deliver services we can achieve better outcomes for victim-survivors of family and sexual violence. Multidisciplinary centres provide a platform for shared and coordinated approaches which are victim centred and trauma informed.”*

Donna Adams APM, Commissioner of Police

# Message from the Minister

## *Survivors at the Centre* is dedicated to each and every victim and survivor of family and sexual violence in Tasmania.

To those victim-survivors, family and friends who shared stories with us, I thank you. I can't imagine the depth of courage it has taken for you to raise your voice. I also know there are many victim-survivors who haven't shared their stories. I am in awe of the resilience you show every day as you heal, and if you choose to share your story with us in the future I want you to know that we are listening.

Sharing stories is important not only because it is a pathway to healing, but because silence has been and continues to create an environment where family and sexual violence is perpetuated. Sharing stories not only reveals what is happening, but it raises awareness of what violence is and can look like and affirms our experiences of being unsafe, knowing that it isn't right, seeking help, healing and stopping it at the start.

We have called this plan *Survivors at the Centre*, to recognise that the actions contained in these pages are the result of what we have heard from hundreds of Tasmanian victim-survivors, supporters and experts. You have told us that we need to do more to change the attitudes that lead to violence; that response and support services need to be more integrated, tailored and



flexible; we need to do more to respond to the needs of those victim-survivors that do not want to pursue a criminal justice response, and that services need more funding and more certainty.

*Survivors at the Centre* outlines our sincere commitment to addressing what we have heard. But it is only a start. It is devastating, and it is wrong, that family and sexual violence still occurs in our community, even after a decade of targeted action. *Survivors at the Centre* is a living plan that will evolve and change over the next five years, as we gather evidence and data about what works and what more we need to do. And as we continue listening.

Government cannot do this alone. This is a plan for the Tasmanian community and built by the Tasmanian community. It is a plan to ensure that every Tasmanian lives free from violence. This is not aspirational, it is your right.

Jo Palmer  
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence



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# Development of *Survivors at the Centre*

*Survivors at the Centre* has been informed, and will continue to be informed, by a sustained and deep community conversation about family and sexual violence. The consultation process commenced in February 2022, and will continue for twelve months until February 2023, to allow victim-survivors the time to come forward and share their stories from all areas of Tasmania and from within Tasmania's diverse communities.

At the heart of the consultation are these voices of victim-survivors and we want to continue to hear from victim-survivors, as we implement this living Action Plan. We know that every story is unique, and we want to learn from the expertise of victim-survivors to work towards stopping family and sexual violence before it starts, and to ensure that the design and delivery of our policy and service systems meets the needs of victim-survivors.

## There are four key pillars of this consultation

### Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022

A public online survey of adult victim-survivors with lived experience of family and sexual violence. The survey is open for twelve months from February 2022 to February 2023 and builds on the first survey of lived experience undertaken in 2018, which informed Safe Homes, Families, Communities, Tasmania's second family and sexual violence Action Plan.

The Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022 has been expanded to include sexual violence beyond intimate partner sexual violence, and promoted to capture the voice and experience of victim-survivors who may not have engaged with services.

To October 2022, 691 responses to the Hearing Lived Experience Survey have been received.

### Public Submissions

Public written submissions from organisations and individuals opened in April 2022 and will be open until February 2023.

To October 2022, 14 public submissions have been received and for those authors who have consented, written submissions have been published on the Tasmanian Government's Safe from Violence website: [www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au](http://www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au)



## Stakeholder Workshops

Six workshops on diverse lived experience of family and sexual violence were held with over 100 stakeholders from the family and sexual violence service system, allied services, advocates, and services to specific groups of Tasmanians. Workshops were held in May and June on the following themes:

- Services to children and young people
- Culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- LGBTIQ+ community
- People with disability
- People living in regional and remote communities
- Older Tasmanians.

## Partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Communities

Deep collaboration will be undertaken in partnership with Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations to develop and mutually agree actions and strategies to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence in the Aboriginal community. This process will be Aboriginal-led, in alignment with and reflecting the priority reforms in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.



# Intersecting Initiatives

**We know that family and sexual violence in Tasmania emerges within a complex set of economic, social and community circumstances.**

*Survivors at the Centre* is a key piece of a larger interconnected set of policies, initiatives and programs which together seek to address the underlying drivers of family and sexual violence, and provide responses that support victims to safety, and hold perpetrators to account.

**The Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2022-2027** is the Government's plan to progress gender equality in our State. It is widely acknowledged that gender inequality is a key driver of family and sexual violence. The Tasmanian Women's Strategy outlines initiatives aimed at cultural change, with the outcome of not only ensuring greater equality between men, women and gender diverse Tasmanians, but as a result, a reduction in family and sexual violence over the long term. The Women's Strategy links to initiatives in *Survivors at the Centre* which seek to support primary prevention, such as our partnership with Our Watch and significantly expanded respectful relationships education.

Housing is a key concern for many Tasmanians. Security of housing is a critical element that impacts on women's ability to escape violent relationships, whether it be in relation to the perpetrator being able to move out, or women having options for short term and transitional housing. Tasmania's **first twenty year Housing Strategy** is currently under development, in partnership with the community. This will develop a long term plan to achieve the vision that 'every Tasmanian has access to safe, secure and affordable housing.' This Strategy will link to specific initiatives contained in *Survivors at the Centre*, which aim to address the safety of victim-survivors of family and sexual violence in their own homes.

Trauma is a legacy of family and sexual violence, as well as contributing to its continuation. Victim-survivors of family and sexual violence can suffer long term mental ill health as a result of the trauma they have experienced. We are growing more sophisticated in our understanding of what is required to heal. On a practical level, this includes better coordination of

services, improved tailoring and 'stepping' of services and more accessible community care. **Rethink 2020 – Tasmania's Strategic Plan for Mental Health**, is a reform program designed to achieve substantial improvements in support for Tasmanians experiencing mental ill health. **Our Healthcare Future** is seeking to build an integrated and sustainable health service. The significant specialised services funded through *Survivors at the Centre*, link to mental and general health services provided by the Tasmanian Government with the aim that they are survivor focussed, tailored and integrated.

*Survivors at the Centre* recognises children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right. This plan contains a number of initiatives which seek to address the specific needs of children and young people both in terms of developing healthy relationships, and in response to children and young people who have become victim-survivors. These initiatives contribute to a whole of Government approach to child and youth wellbeing contained in the **It Takes a Tasmanian Village: Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy** with the vision that 'all Tasmanian children and young people have what they need to grow and thrive.'

Safe at Home is the Tasmanian Government's integrated criminal justice response to family violence. Safe at Home involves a range of services working together to address the risk and safety needs of victim-survivors of family violence and hold perpetrators accountable. Safe at Home aims to improve safety for victim-survivors of family and sexual violence in the short and long term, ensure offenders are held to account, reduce the incidents of family violence over the longer term and minimise negative impacts of contact with the criminal justice system on victim-survivors. Safe at Home is an important component of the response to family violence in Tasmania. *Survivors at the Centre* builds on the foundations established through Safe at Home, to consider how to support response and recovery including and beyond a criminal justice response.

The Tasmanian Government is also currently in the planning and consultation phases for a number of significant policies; these include a new Multicultural Action Plan, new Active Ageing Strategy, a new Disability Action Plan and a new LGBTIQ+ Framework and Action Plan. It is intended that the voice of diverse victim-survivors will be central to the development of these initiatives supporting a holistic community-wide response.

# Our Vision

All Tasmanians are safe, equal and respected. Our homes, families and communities are free from all forms of family and sexual violence.

These four key principles have been developed through what we have heard through consultation, and will guide implementation of *Survivors at the Centre*, and the evolution of this living plan over the next five years.



## Partnership and Transformation

Government organisations, individuals and communities work together to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence. Services are collaborative, integrated, and survivor-centred



## Capacity Building

Specialist family and sexual violence services have the funding certainty and resources to meet the needs of victim-survivors



## Prevention and Early Intervention

Family and Sexual Violence is stopped before it starts



## Voice and Diversity

Victim-survivors have diverse voices and are listened to

# Snapshot of investment through *Survivors at the Centre*

*Survivors at the Centre* represents the next stage of the Tasmanian Government's long-term commitment to the Tasmanian community, for a Tasmania free from all forms of family and sexual violence. This is a living Action Plan and we will keep listening, learning and acting to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence in Tasmania.

*Survivors at the Centre* provides:

**\$100 million** over the next five years to deliver actions to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence, and hold perpetrators to account;

A **37% increase in core funding** to Tasmania's frontline family and sexual violence services with **five year contracts**, providing funding certainty;

**\$1 million** over five years to establish and support Tasmania's first **Victim-Survivor Advisory Council**, to provide ongoing voice to Government;

**\$15.1 million** over two years to pilot two **Multi-Disciplinary Centres** in the North and South of the State;

**\$4.9 million** of additional funding into **Safe at Home** – Tasmania's integrated criminal justice response to family violence;

**\$3.7 million** to provide next generation technology and instruments for scientists to ensure higher quality evidence for court proceedings and increased capacity for evidence storage, including **sexual evidence kits**;

An **expansion** of the **Safe Families Coordination Unit** to include whole of Government data coordination in relation to family and sexual violence;

**\$1.4 million** to develop a nation-first initiative to **build children and young people's understanding of consent, coercive control and grooming**;

**\$1.2 million** to expand the **Step Up Adolescent Intervention Program** state-wide, providing early intervention for adolescents who use violence against their families, and violence against their intimate partners;

**\$900 000** over two years to **community-based projects to support inclusion**, access and equity for diverse Tasmanians who experience barriers to accessing support for family and sexual violence.

# Principles into Action

## - summary



## Expanded and New Actions



### **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.**

Expand the scope of the Safe Families Coordination Unit to undertake whole of Government data coordination and integration for family and sexual violence.

Investigate the Safe and Together Model, including providing professional learning on the model for legal professionals, community sector workers, and Government officers.

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.

Establish 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.

Provide an additional appointment for parents and children who identify as experiencing family violence through the Child Health and Parenting Service.



### **Provide historic increased core funding to specialist family and sexual violence services with five year contracts to enable funding certainty.**

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.

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.



### **Effectively embed Respectful Relationship 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.**

Expand the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program into a state-wide program across the South, North and North West to provide early intervention of adolescents who use violence in their families and with intimate partners.



### **Establish Tasmania's first Victim-Survivor Advisory Council.**

Deliver funding for community-based projects to support inclusion, access and equity to support diverse Tasmanians who experience barriers when accessing support for family and sexual violence.

Expand the Mothers Circle Pilot Program for culturally and linguistically diverse women to the South and North of the State, strengthening individual capacity to identify and respond to family and sexual violence.

Continue the Safe Choices Local Support Coordinator role in the North and North West, to ensure a state-wide service for women with disability experiencing family violence.

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 data-set of victim-survivor experiences.

# Our Contribution to the National Effort

*Survivors at the Centre* represents Tasmania's Implementation Plan, contributing to the national effort to end violence against women and children.

This Plan outlines initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the overarching goal of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032; to end gender-based violence in one generation.

The National Plan focusses efforts across a continuum; from prevention, to early intervention, response, recovery and healing.

Our investments across these areas are as follows:



## Detailed Actions

*Survivors at the Centre* continues those actions that we know work, from our first two Action Plans, Safe Homes, Safe Families 2015-2019, and Safe Homes, Families, Communities 2019-2022. It includes innovative new actions, and enhanced continuing actions that directly address feedback we have received through our sustained community consultation to date.

Throughout the actions we have woven the voice of victim-survivors, through comments shared in our Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022.

The actions in *Survivors at the Centre* will evolve, and be added to, over the life of this Action Plan, as we continue to listen, learn and respond.







# Partnership and Transformation

*“When someone reports have ONE person to help them from start to finish who coordinates all the services available. You get sick of telling your story all the time and each service only wants to know a little bit of the story. You don’t get a chance to tell it all and I want to tell it all!”*

Victim-Survivor,  
Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022

*“You need integrated services.”*

Victim-Survivor,  
Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022



# Partnership and Transformation

Government organisations, individuals and communities work together to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence. Services are collaborative, integrated and survivor-centred.

## New and Enhanced Actions

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.

*This Action will deliver a pilot program of two Multi-Disciplinary Centres in Tasmania. These Multi-Disciplinary Centres will feature sexual assault support services, child safety officers, and sex crimes investigators. The centres will include specifically designed facilities for use by family violence counselling support services, witness intermediaries, and specialist services as required, delivering a coordinated response, tailored to individual victim-survivor needs. The Centres' learnings from the pilot will inform future considerations of the model.*

**Minister Responsible:** Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

**Lead Agency:** Department of 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.

*This Action will expand the scope of the Safe Families Coordination unit, to support the pilot of the Multi-Disciplinary Centres, to a whole of Government intelligence hub for family and sexual violence. The purpose of this expanded scope is to enable a complete intelligence picture to be developed and provided to services to support enhanced victim-survivor outcomes.*

**Minister Responsible:** Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

**Lead Agency:** Department of 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.

*This Action includes two parts. The first element of the Action is the provision of support to the Women's Legal Service Tasmania to offer professional learning on Dr David Mandel's Safe and Together model for legal professionals, community sector workers, and Government officers. This includes Workshops, and further tailored professional learning to be developed on the Safe and Together Model. The second element is investigation of the Safe and Together model for use across Government services that support children and their families.*

*Funding from the Australian Government*

**Minister Responsible:** Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

**Lead Agency:** Department of Premier and Cabinet

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.

*This Action supports a trauma informed approach to the collection and use of forensic evidence in relation to family and sexual violence. Storing evidence for longer means that victim-survivors can take the time they need to decide whether they wish to pursue a criminal justice response.*

**Minister Responsible:** Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

**Lead Agency:** Department of 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 state-wide to support clients who identify as experiencing family and sexual violence to access services.

*This Action recognises that health care professionals in a hospital setting are often the first person a victim-survivor of family and sexual violence will talk to. This program will ensure that people experiencing family and sexual violence are referred to appropriate support services and provided connection across the Tasmanian Health Service and with other Government agencies and service providers.*

**Minister Responsible:** Minister for Health

**Lead Agency:** Department of Health

6. Provide an additional appointment for parents and children who identify as experiencing family violence through the Child Health and Parenting Service.

*This Action builds upon recent work undertaken in the Child Health and Parenting Service to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of nurses to respond to family and sexual violence as they help parents and children through the first few years of a child's life. This included rolling out the My Early Relational Trauma training, and a new screening tool to improve nurses' ability to recognise and respond to family and sexual violence. The next stage of this work is to offer an additional Child Health Assessment appointment as required for children of parents who identify as experiencing family violence, where a routine assessment has been diverted to assist with immediate family violence response.*

**Minister Responsible:** Minister for Health

**Lead Agency:** Department of Health

## Continuing Actions

7. Continue electronic monitoring of high risk family violence offenders. (DOJ)

*This highly successful program has seen a 100 per cent decrease in high risk family violence incidents and will continue under this Plan.*

8. Continue to implement legislative reform to strengthen legal responses to family and sexual violence. (DOJ)

*Investment through this Action Plan will enable the Government to continue its focus on reform to ensure the legal system remains responsive to family and sexual violence.*

9. Continue to roll out mobile phone data extraction devices to collect evidence of technology facilitated abuse. (DPFEM)

*These devices are used by Tasmania Police in the investigation of family and sexual violence. The devices mean that victim-survivors are not required to give up their mobile phones so that data can be extracted for evidence.*

10. Continue to develop standardised risk assessment processes across government and non-government family and sexual violence services. (DPAC)

*Progress testing and implementation of standardised risk assessment processes across government and non-government family violence services.*

11. Continue the Family Violence Liaison Officer in the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line. (DECYP)

*The Liaison Officer is an invaluable part of the Advice and Referral Line, and assists in providing the best service response to support families experiencing family violence.*

*"Perpetrators of violence must be held to account. Tasmanian community attitudes towards family and sexual violence are changing, and more people are reporting than ever before. But you have told us that it is important that victim-survivors are supported, and given flexibility and choice in if, when and how they report. Our Multi-Disciplinary Centres will pilot a new way of supporting victim-survivors – that has victim-survivor needs at the centre of our response."*

**Hon Felix Ellis MP,  
Minister for Police, Fire  
and Emergency Management**

# Capacity Building

*“I didn’t understand that was what was happening for a long time.  
If the service hadn’t found me, I’m not sure I ever would have.”*

Victim-Survivor,  
Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022

*“The counselling has been by far, the most helpful because  
I had no idea how unwell I was after I left my husband.  
Sadly, I did not learn about Behaviour change programs  
for perpetrators until after my husband died.”*

Victim-Survivor,  
Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022



# Capacity Building

Specialist family and sexual violence services have the funding certainty and resources to meet the needs of victim-survivors.

## New and Enhanced Actions

12. Provide historic increased core funding to Tasmania's specialist family and sexual violence services with five year contracts to enable funding certainty.

This includes for continued delivery of: *Safe Choices by CatholicCare, Engender Equality, Yemaya, Huon Domestic Violence Service, Sexual Assault Support Service, Laurel House, Australian Childhood Foundation, Family Violence Counselling Support Service.*

**Minister Responsible:** Minister for Community Services and Development

**Lead Agency:** Department of Premier and Cabinet

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.

*This Action will support the RSPCA Tasmania to establish a network of beds to care for the pets of Tasmanians at risk of, or experiencing family and sexual violence, and related homelessness. This program will be available across Tasmania, and will support Tasmanians in at-risk situations. In particular, it will support people in rural and regional areas, and will provide beds for a range of pets.*

**Minister Responsible:** Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

**Lead Agency:** Department of Premier and Cabinet

*Funding from the Australian Government*

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.

*This Action will provide funding to TasCOSS to establish a Family and Sexual Violence Peak to streamline engagement between Government and the community sector, and support the sector in policy development, enabling it to focus on service delivery to the Tasmanian community.*

**Minister Responsible:** Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

**Lead Agency:** Department of Premier and Cabinet

## Continuing Actions

15. Continue to deliver the Rapid Rehousing Program. (Homes Tasmania)

*This ongoing program provides supported housing options for families affected by family violence, allowing them access to safe and affordable rental homes.*

16. Continue to deliver Flexible Support Packages. (DOJ)

*This ongoing program supports a holistic response to people experiencing family violence by providing practical supports to enhance safety and wellbeing when leaving an abusive relationship. Risk assessment and safety planning are key components of the program.*

17. Continue to deliver the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes Program. (DOJ)

*This ongoing program provides access to security upgrades for women and children experiencing family violence so that they can remain safely in their own home or a home of their choice.*



18. Continue to provide legal assistance to people experiencing family and sexual violence. (DOJ)

*This ongoing action supports delivery of legal assistance to ensure people experiencing family and sexual violence have access to legal advice and representation to meet their legal needs.*

19. Strengthen the Victims of Crime Service. (DOJ)

*This ongoing program provides personal support, counselling, and information as well as referrals and resources to victims of crime.*

20. Continue to deliver perpetrator programs. (DOJ)

*This ongoing program supports perpetrators to change their behaviours and prevent re-offending.*

21. Deliver mandated behaviour change programs, including as part of a family violence order, and for sex offenders. (DOJ)

*These ongoing programs support offenders to change their behaviours and prevent reoffending.*

22. Continue to strengthen specialist police prosecution. (DPFEM)

*This Action Plan provides increased investment to employ an additional, fourth dedicated police prosecutor in response to increased demand on services.*

23. Continue to ensure forensic medical examinations for adult victim-survivors of family and sexual violence is a state-wide service. (DOH)

*This ongoing program ensures that forensic medical examinations are available to adult victim-survivors at the Royal Hobart Hospital, the Launceston General Hospital and the North West Regional Hospital. This service gives police and the justice system the best possible chance of convicting perpetrators through the supply of evidence.*

*“You have told us that housing is one of the major barriers for women and children escaping family violence. I am committed to ensuring that Tasmanians in crisis are able to access safe and affordable housing. We are working on a 20-year Tasmanian Housing Strategy that will focus on Tasmanians that need help – including those at risk of, or experiencing family and sexual violence. We need to do all we can to support people to safety.”*

**Hon Guy Barnett MP,  
Minister for State Development,  
Construction and Housing**

## Prevention and Early Intervention

*“The challenge of wanting change, and not understanding the cycle of abuse and that this never changes. So one challenge is changing community culture and understanding, so that people know that abuse isn’t just the classic black eye, that it is insidious, it affects you every day, in so many ways and that the person(s) being abused have not invited this into their lives, they don’t want it, they haven’t caused or triggered the abuse and it is really hard to leave a perpetrator, as part of their abuse is control, power and coercion.*

*It takes a community to stop abuse and we need a whole of community approach to inform, support and assist people and their children, pets, loved ones to end their abusive relationships without losing everything they hold dear and which makes them who they are.”*

Victim-Survivor,  
Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022





# Prevention and Early Intervention

Family and Sexual Violence is stopped before it starts.

## 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 that builds understanding of consent, coercive control and grooming in the Tasmanian community.

*This Action will establish a dedicated position in the Department for Education, Children and Young People to work with Tasmanian Government schools to embed Respectful Relationships Education that is aligned to the Australian Curriculum.*

*The voices of children, young people and key stakeholders will inform the development of resources that will be available to all learners to increase the understanding of children in relation to consent, coercive control, and grooming.*

*This will align with professional learning being developed by the Office of Safeguarding Children and Young People to equip staff (including volunteers and contractors) to prevent, identify and respond to suspicions, allegations and incidents of child sexual abuse.*

**Responsible Minister:** Minister for Education, Children and Youth

**Lead Agency:** Department for Education, Children and Young People

25. Expand the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program into a state-wide program across the South, North and North West to provide early intervention for adolescents that use violence in their families and with intimate partners.

*This Action expands the highly successful Step Up Adolescent Intervention Program delivered by Colony47 into a state-wide program, enabling access for young people and their families in the North and North West of Tasmania. The Step Up program has been independently evaluated, and found to have significant positive outcomes for young people who complete the program.*

*Funding from the Australian Government*

**Responsible Minister:** Minister for Education, Children and Youth

**Lead Agency:** Department of Education, Children and Young People

## Continuing Actions

26. Continue our partnership with Our Watch through the Tasmanian Government's membership of Our Watch and continuing the Our Watch Senior Advisor Role. (DPAC)

*This ongoing action enables Tasmania to contribute to the national effort to realise a vision of an Australia where women and children live free from all forms of violence. This includes continuing the Our Watch Primary Prevention Officer role to build capability and expertise in Tasmania.*

27. Continue embedding Workforce Equality and Respect Standards in Tasmanian Government Agencies. (DPAC)

*This ongoing action is supporting the Tasmanian State Service to ensure that gender equality and respect are at the centre of all workplaces.*

28. Continue to deliver the Harmful Sexual Behaviours program for children and young people. (DECYP)

*This program supports a specialised response for children and young people up to 17 years displaying harmful sexual behaviours.*

29. Strengthen the Defendant Health Liaison Service to provide early intervention assessment and management services to respondents. (DOH)

*This ongoing program provides information and advice to respondents issued with a family violence order about the orders, how to prevent breaches and referrals to other services.*

30. Continue to deliver the Men's Referral Service. (DOJ)

*This ongoing program provides telephone counselling, information and referrals for men taking responsibility for their violent behaviour.*

*"Survivors at the Centre demonstrates our unwavering focus on eliminating family and sexual violence in the Tasmanian community. It is important that we work with our children and young people to understand and build respectful relationships – and to ensure that our approach is informed by the experiences of children and young people. It is also critical that we work with adults, to ensure they safeguard and nurture our children and young people everywhere, and at all times."*

**Hon Roger Jaensch MP,  
Minister for Education, Children and Youth**

## Voice and Diversity

*“More visibility of the problem. More real people’s stories out there - not just the big ones where a woman or child is murdered. Also tell the stories of people who haven’t been killed. Tell the stories of more “minor” abuse. Though no abuse is minor. People need to know that it’s not just wife beating and wife killing. It can be subtle and insidious. It doesn’t have to be in one big act it can be in a thousand smaller acts.”*

Victim-Survivor,  
Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022

*“Having a voice and being able to speak more freely.”*

Victim-Survivor,  
Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022

*“BELIEVE! Believe the story; believe the women; believe the children. This is the best way to enable people to speak out, they’ve been silenced for long enough.”*

Victim-Survivor,  
Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022



# Voice and Diversity

Survivors have diverse voices and are listened to.

## New and Enhanced Actions

31. Establish Tasmania's first Victim-Survivor Advisory Council.

*This Action will establish an ongoing voice of Victim-Survivors to the Tasmanian Government, informing and shaping our living plan.*

*The Council will be established in a way that is trauma informed, respectful, reflective of diversity and safe. The Council will consider the ongoing feedback through the Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022 in the first year of Survivors at the Centre, and will have a key role in informing the development of an Outcomes Framework for this Action Plan. The Council will include victim-survivors of family and sexual violence including adults who may have experienced child sexual abuse, and family and friends of victims who have lost their lives to family and sexual violence.*

**Responsible Minister:** Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

**Lead Agency:** Department of Premier and Cabinet

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.

*Based on ideas that have been raised through the consultation, in particular the Stakeholder Workshops, funding will be delivered to support community-based projects that meet the needs of diverse victim-survivors and reduce barriers to service access. This includes for children and young people, older Tasmanians, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, LGBTIQ+ community, Tasmanians with disability, and*

*people living in rural and regional areas.*

*Funding from the Australian Government*

**Responsible Minister:** Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

**Lead Agency:** Department of Premier and Cabinet

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.

*This Action supports the Mothers Circle Program in the North and South of Tasmania, delivered by the Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania.*

*This program seeks to build understandings of family and sexual violence amongst migrant and refugee women who are at risk of experiencing family and sexual violence to prevent and address violence, and build parenting capacity. The program expands on a highly successful pilot run in Southern Tasmania in 2020.*

*Funding from the Australian Government*

**Responsible Minister:** Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

**Lead Agency:** Department of Premier and Cabinet

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.

*This action provides an additional case worker, to those located in Southern Tasmania, in the North and North West to support women with disability experiencing family violence by providing information, advice, and practical supports.*

*Safe Choices provides support for people who may not wish to seek help through counselling or criminal justice pathways. Safe Choices is a longstanding program of the Tasmanian Government, delivered by CatholicCare, and will continue under this Action Plan.*

**Responsible Minister:** Minister for Community Services and Development

**Lead Agency:** Department of Premier and Cabinet

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 data-set of victim-survivor experiences.

*To inform the evolution of this Action Plan, the Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022 will continue for twelve months and provide critical information and data. The data from the Hearing Lived Experience Survey 2022 will be considered in the implementation of this Action Plan.*

**Responsible Minister:** Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

**Lead Agency:** Department of Premier and Cabinet

## Continuing Actions

36. Continue to support children and families through the Safe Homes, Safe Families Support Team. (DECYP)

*This action supports ongoing delivery of social workers and psychologists in Child and Family Learning Centres who respond to notifications from the Safe Families Coordination Unit.*

37. Continue to support Aboriginal Families through the Aboriginal Family Safety Workers in Child and Family Learning Centres. (DECYP)

*This action supports the ongoing delivery of culturally appropriate support in Child and Family Learning Centres, engaging with Aboriginal families to promote family safety.*

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 CHYPP program. (DOH)

*These ongoing programs provide counselling to children and young people impacted by family violence.*

*“Eliminating family and sexual violence is a whole-of-government and whole-of-community issue, and it is up to us all to do what we can to support each other and ensure every Tasmanian lives free from violence. You have shared with us the invaluable role of support services in healing. In this plan we commit to increased core funding and long term contracts for our valued frontline family and sexual violence services, to ensure that support is available for those who need it.”*

Hon Nic Street MP,  
Minister for Community Services  
and Development

# Measurement and Evaluation of *Survivors at the Centre*

Reaching our vision of a Tasmania free from violence will take many years to achieve and will require significant action beyond the life of this Action Plan. Our deep commitment is to this long-term vision, and to take actions now and into the future, that realises a Tasmania where everyone is safe.

There are many different ways to know if we are making a difference – through what we see in our homes, families and communities, from what we are told, and from statistical information that can be collected.

This Action Plan commits to a program of measurement, evaluation and learning to make sure that our actions are effective and that they are:

- Preventing family and sexual violence – in particular changing the attitudes in relation to respectful relationships;
- Empowering victim-survivors to have a voice, and ensuring policy and service design and delivery are survivor-centred, and take into account the diversity of experience and need;
- Building the capacity of specialist family and sexual violence services to meet the needs of victim-survivors; and
- Continually evolving our model, and strengthening a partnership-based collaborative, integrated and survivor-centred approach.

This program of measurement, evaluation and learning will be formalised into an Outcomes Framework, to be co-designed with victim-survivors, the family and sexual violence service system, and community members, and will be delivered in the second year of this Action Plan.

Development of this Outcomes Framework will incorporate the Demand, Access, Track Act (DATA) Project, to improve the reporting of family and sexual violence data in Tasmania, and be informed by Tasmania's ongoing membership of the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety.

An Annual Report of the progress of Actions in *Survivors at the Centre*, will be released for each year of the Action Plan. In the second year of the Action Plan, the Annual Report will include reporting against the Outcomes Framework.

This Action Plan also outlines Tasmania's contribution to the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032.



# What we know about Family and Sexual Violence

## What do we mean by family violence?

In Tasmania, family violence refers to violent, threatening and/or controlling behaviour by a person against their spouse, partner, or ex partner. An intimate partner is another person with whom the person is – or has been – in a marriage or ‘significant’ relationship. Under the *Family Violence Act 2004*, in Tasmania family violence means violence that occurs in a marriage or significant relationship between two adults, or between two people where one or both are aged 16 to 18 years.

Family violence includes a range of behaviours; physical, verbal and/or sexual assault, emotional or psychological abuse, economic abuse, property damage, abduction or stalking, and breaching existing family violence orders.

## What do we mean by sexual violence?

Sexual violence is a 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 violence includes sexual harassment, technology facilitated abuse, unwanted kissing or sexual touching, coercion, sexual assault including rape, child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation, and stealthing (removal of a condom without consent).



# Australia

On average **one woman a week** is killed by a partner or former partner<sup>1</sup>

**53%**, or one in two women have experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime<sup>2</sup>

**One in three** Australian women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15<sup>3</sup>

Women in Australia are sexually assaulted at a rate of almost **seven times** higher than men<sup>4</sup>

**\$323.4 billion** is an estimate of how much violence against women will have cost the Australian economy by 2044-2045<sup>5</sup>

**1.4 million** Australians, who are now adults, experienced childhood sexual abuse, most commonly by a known person who was not a family member – **11 per cent of women and 4.6 per cent of men**<sup>6</sup>

**1 in 3** Australians believe rape is a result of men not being able to control their need for sex<sup>7</sup>

**2 in 5** Australians believe that women make up false reports of sexual assault in order to punish men<sup>8</sup>

# Tasmania

There has been a **152% increase** in sexual assaults in Tasmania between 2019-2022<sup>9</sup>

In 2021-22 there were **6 514** family violence incidents and arguments in Tasmania.

**A 6.3 percent increase from the previous twelve months**<sup>10</sup>

In 2021-2022 there was a continued **decrease** in high risk family violence incidents compared to 2015-16<sup>11</sup>

1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Family Domestic and Sexual Violence in Australia, 2018.

2 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Personal Safety Survey, 2017

3 Ibid.

4 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Sexual Assault in Australia, 2020

5 PwC Australia, A High Price to Pay: The Economic Cost for Preventing Violence Against Women, 2015

6 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Sexual Violence – Victimization, 2021

7 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Sexual Assault in Australia, 2020

8 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Sexual Violence – Victimization, 2021

9 Tasmanian Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Crime Statistics Supplement, 2021-22

10 Tasmanian Department of Police Fire and Emergency Management, Corporate Performance Report 2021-2022.

11 Ibid.

## Summary of New and Enhanced Actions under *Survivors at the Centre*


Action	Agency
Pilot the establishment of two Multi-Disciplinary Centres in the North and South of Tasmania	DPFEM
Expand the scope of the Safe Families Coordination Unit to undertake whole of Government data coordination and integration for family and sexual violence	DPFEM
Investigate the Safe and Together Model, including providing professional learning on the model for legal professionals, community sector workers and Government officers	DPAC
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
Establish a family and sexual violence liaison service within the Tasmanian Health Service, which will provide Family Violence Liaison Officers in the North, North West and South	DOH
Provide an additional appointment for parents and children who identify as experiencing family violence through the Child Health and Parenting Service.	DOH
Provide historic increased core funding to Tasmania's specialist family and sexual violence services with five year contracts to enable funding certainty	DPAC
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
Investigate the establishment of a Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Peak to improve coordination of family and sexual violence services and advise on policy development and service design	DPAC
Effectively embed Respectful Relationship and Consent Education in Tasmanian schools, and develop a suite of resources informed by key stakeholders, children and young people that builds the understanding of consent, coercive control and grooming in the Tasmanian community	DECYP
Expand the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program into a state-wide program across the South, North and North West to provide early intervention for adolescents that use violence in their families and with intimate partners	DECYP
Establish Tasmania's first Victim-Survivor Advisory Council	DPAC
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	DPAC
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	DPAC
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
Continue the Hearing Lived Experience 2022 Survey of Victim-Survivors of Family and Sexual Violence to inform development of this Action Plan, and provide a comprehensive data-set of victim-survivor experiences	DPAC

## *Status of Actions under previous plans:*

### *Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's Action Plan for Family and Sexual Violence 2019-2022*

### *Safe Homes, Safe Families: Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan 2015-2020*

Action	Status
Membership of Our Watch	Continuing
Establish Our Watch Primary Prevention Officer in Tasmania	Continuing
Embed Respectful Relationships Education in Tasmanian Government schools	Continuing
Support the successful National Campaign, Stop it at the Start	Completed
Support implementation of the new National Sexual Violence Campaign	Completed
Continue to ensure that gender equality and respect are at the centre of all Tasmanian State Service workplaces	Continuing
Develop a family and sexual violence website	Completed
Work with the e-Safety commissioner to deliver education and training in response to technology-facilitated abuse	Completed
Deliver a Program Sexual Behaviours and Sexually Abusive Behaviours program for children and young people	Continuing
Support Tasmanian Aboriginal communities to deliver targeted primary prevention and early intervention programs and to improve service delivery for Aboriginal people affected by family and sexual violence	Completed
Trial the Step Up Adolescent Intervention program	Enhanced
Strengthen the Defendant Health Liaison Service to provide early intervention to offenders	Continuing
Deliver the Men's Referral Service	Continuing
Deliver Safe Choices	Continuing
Support Women with disability through the Local Support Coordinator Role in Safe Choices	Continuing
Support children and their families through the Safe Homes, Safe Families Support Team	Continuing
Support Aboriginal families through the Aboriginal Family Safety Workers in Child and Family Centres	Continuing
Provide increased counselling services for children and young people experiencing family violence	Continuing
Provide counselling services for adults experiencing family violence	Enhanced
Invest in crisis accommodation through the Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-2023	Continuing
Deliver the Rapid Rehousing Program for people experiencing family violence	Continuing

Action	Status
Deliver the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes program	Continuing
Provide legal assistance to people experiencing family violence	Continuing
Deliver perpetrator programs for low, medium and high risk perpetrators	Continuing
Introduce the ability to require mandated behaviour change program participation as part of a family violence order	Continuing
Extend forensic medical examinations for adult victim-survivors of family and sexual violence to a state-wide service	Continuing
Strengthen the Safe Families Coordination Unit	Continuing
Trial electronic monitoring of high-risk family violence offenders, with opt-in available for victim-survivors	Continuing
Strengthen specialist police prosecution services	Continuing
Implement legislative reform to strengthen legal responses to family and sexual violence 	Continuing
Improve data collection and reporting	Continuing
Membership of the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety	Continuing
Strengthen mechanisms for schools to respond to technology-facilitated abuse including image-based abuse	Completed
Roll out mobile phone data extraction devices to collect evidence of technology-facilitated abuse	Continuing
Centralise management of family and sexual violence services within the Department of Communities Tasmania	Completed
Introduce standardised risk assessment processes across government and non-government family and sexual violence services	Continuing
Develop and deliver training across identified Tasmanian Government services to respond to family and sexual violence	Completed
Establish a Family Violence Liaison Officer in the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line	Continuing
Undertake a feasibility study for a disclosure scheme in Tasmania	Continuing
Review the regional sexual assault protocols	Completed



## Key legislative reform to strengthen our response to family and sexual violence

### 2017 Reformed the *Family Violence Act* to:

- allow judges to make an order declaring an alleged victim of family violence to be a special witness; and
- enable the recording of a family violence offence on a person's criminal record as a family violence offence.

### Amended the *Family Violence Act* to:

- include the option of electronic monitoring of a family violence offender, in a Family Violence Order, if that person has previously been found guilty of a family violence offence; currently charged with a family violence offence; or has a history of committing family violence.

### 2018 Reformed the *Family Violence Act* to:

- Introduce a new crime of persistent family violence; and
- Prohibit self-represented defendants from cross examining witnesses in family violence matters.

### 2019 Amended the *Criminal Code (Bullying) Act* to extend the crime of stalking to address bullying behaviours and enhance the definition of family violence.

### 2020 Amended the *Evidence Act* to allow victims of crime to consent to publication of their identity, if they choose to do so.

Amended the *Criminal Code (Sexual Abuse Terminology) Act* to remove outdated terminology in relation to sexual offending, and to ensure the gravity of crimes against children is properly reflected in the terminology and that this predatory and exploitative offending is clearly identified and recorded.


Abolished fees imposed through the Courts for Tasmanians seeking interim family violence orders.

### 2022 Amended the *Criminal Code* to:

- make it plain that there is no free agreement to sexual intercourse in the event of certain conduct regarding condoms; and
- create the new stand alone offence of strangulation, choking and suffocation.

### Amended the *Family Violence Act and other Acts* to:

- introduce a Serial Family Violence Perpetrator declaration to identify perpetrators who repeatedly commit family violence offences against a single partner or multiple and successive partners;
- introduce an option for the court to order rehabilitation program participation as a Family Violence Order condition; and
- expand the definition of family violence to include additional specific offences, and expanding the definition of harassing to reflect that making unwelcome contact is a form of family violence.



*“I thank those advocates, victim-survivors and supporters who have raised with us the need for legislative reform in Tasmania. It is as a result of your advocacy that the gravity of crimes against children are properly reflected in the terminology of our legislation; that victim-survivors can identify themselves if they choose to do so; that the criminal code has been amended to reflect stealthing; and we have created a new offence of strangulation, choking and suffocation.”*

**Hon Elise Archer MP,  
Attorney General, Minister for Justice  
and Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation**



Email: [fsvap@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:fsvap@dpac.tas.gov.au) | Visit: [www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au](http://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](http://www.1800respect.org.au) or [www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au](http://www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au)