

**Minister for Human Services**  
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**TASMANIAN WOMEN'S PLAN 2013-2018 – PROGRESS REPORT**  
**COMMUNIQUE**  
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The Tasmanian Government is committed to improving the participation and wellbeing of women, in all aspects of community life.

We know that Tasmanian women are more likely to experience family violence than men, have high smoking rates during pregnancy, are less likely to be financially independent compared to men and are clearly under-represented in leadership and decision making.

In 2015, the Tasmanian Government continued to implement its key framework for increasing women's equality, the *Tasmanian Women's Plan 2013-2018*, with agencies incorporating a focus on gender equality in many whole-of-community programs.

The core priorities of the Plan were reinforced with the introduction of *Safe Homes, Safe Families: Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan 2015-2020 (Safe Homes, Safe Families)*.

*Safe Home, Safe Families* allocates \$25.57 million to new and direct actions to address family violence, a key determinant of which is gender inequality.

As part of *Safe Homes, Safe Families*, the Department of Education is developing a respectful relationships resource for Kindergarten to Year 12. Respectful relationships programs encourage young people to develop healthy and equal relationships, and to reject violence. The program will align to the Australian Curriculum and build on the Department's successful *Respectful Schools and Workplaces Framework*.

Another initiative of *Safe Homes, Safe Families*, is 'Safe Families Tasmania'. Through this initiative, the Department of Police and Emergency Management is establishing the Safe Families Tasmania Coordination Unit to coordinate support services for victims and hold perpetrators to account; and the Department of Premier and Cabinet is creating a new service called Safe Choices, which will provide practical support for people who are in violent relationships and those who want to exit those violent relationships.

The *Affordable Housing Strategy 2015-2025* was also launched in 2015, recognising that women with children escaping family violence are especially vulnerable to experiencing homelessness.

The release of the *Women on Boards Strategy 2015-2020* was another significant achievement, establishing a target of 50 per cent representation of women on Tasmanian Government boards and committees by 2020.

Other activities in 2015 included:

- An internal review of *Safe At Home*, the Tasmanian Government's integrated criminal justice response and intervention system to family violence.

- Continued implementation of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan).
- The announcement of 19 scholarships for women to undertake 'board-ready' training through the Australian Institute of Company Directors.
- The launch of *A Smoke Free Start for Every Tasmanian Baby: A Plan for Action – 2014 to 2017* the work of clinical staff, research specialists and key stakeholders, with an aim to lower smoking rates in pregnant Tasmanian women.
- The staged implementation of *My Education* commenced - a Kindergarten to Year 12 approach to career and life planning.

Our efforts in 2016 already include the launch a series of fact sheets on the status of women in Tasmania - a continuation of the previous *Women and Girls in Tasmania Report*. These regular measurements, which come from a wide range of published and unpublished sources, will inform an evidence base for the development of policies, programs and services.

Over the coming year the Government will continue to support inter-governmental opportunities to promote equality through the National Plan and explore ways to improve our ability to identify and support the needs of women in program design and delivery.

Further information about the Tasmanian Women's Plan can be found at [www.dpac.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au)

Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP  
**Minister for Women**