



# SAFE HOMES, SAFE FAMILIES

Tasmania's Family Violence  
Action Plan 2015–2020

## RESPONDING AND REPORTING

### AUGUST 2018

Achievements in the delivery of  
Safe Homes, Safe Families  
and  
our Next Steps to ending family violence



# SAFE HOMES, SAFE FAMILIES

Tasmania's Family Violence  
Action Plan 2015–2020



**\$26 million** over four years in additional funding to take action against family violence

**\$18 million** in forward estimates toward delivery of the next family violence action plan

**3,752** recommendations provided by the Safe Families Coordination Unit to better support victims of family violence and hold perpetrators to account

**590** high risk family violence incidents mapped by the Safe Families Coordination Unit

**5,235** at risk children identified and **3,256** notifications made by the Safe Families Coordination Unit to schools to support students experiencing family violence

**400** clients provided with support, counselling and referral options by the new Safe Choices service (from 1 July 2016)



**5** Tasmanian Government Departments accredited as White Ribbon Workplaces, reaching over **13,000** employees

Over **43 million** online views of the *Stop It At The Start!* national campaign video

**3** Aboriginal Family Safety Workers appointed to Child and Family Centres to support families affected by family violence

**453** additional children and young people received counselling services provided by the Australian Childhood Foundation (from 1 October 2016)

**2,474** additional hours of counselling and service provision for children and young people provided by the Australian Childhood Foundation (from 1 October 2016)

**1,283** additional hours of counselling services for adults provided by Engender Equality (from 1 October 2016)

**50** additional houses made available for families experiencing family violence



**971** additional clients provided with legal assistance by Women's Legal Service Tasmania and Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania (from 1 January 2017)

**815** clients assessed and provided with information and referral through the Men's Referral Service

**102** women provided with safety upgrades to support them to remain in their home or home of choice

\* All data is from 1 August 2015 to 30 June 2018 unless stated otherwise

# FOREWORD

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## Eliminating family violence remains a top priority for the Tasmanian Government.



*Safe Homes, Safe Families: Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan 2015- 2020* committed an additional \$26 million to fund new and direct actions to address family violence in Tasmania.

Our nation-leading effort was recognised at the 2017 Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in the Public Service where the Family Violence Cross Agency Working Group, which oversees the implementation of these reforms, was awarded the Collaboration Award and a commendation for Sustainable Excellence in Public Sector Management.

This is an example of Tasmania's public service delivering the highest standard services to support those who are vulnerable in our community.

We have continued to make strong progress in implementing the 23 actions under *Safe Homes, Safe Families* and *Responding and Reporting 2018* continues our commitment to publicly report against the action plan.

*Responding and Reporting 2018* follows the first report released in March 2017 and outlines key achievements over the second 18 months of implementation. With updated performance data over the life of the action plan, complemented by quotations highlighting the direct experience of clients and stakeholders, this report builds a picture of service delivery over three years of *Safe Homes, Safe Families* and outlines my Government's plan for the next stage in our response to family violence.

We are keeping our promise to respond to emerging family violence issues, and continue to work with and listen to key stakeholders and the community. In response to advice received in 2017, our 2018-19 State Budget committed an additional \$20.2 million toward family violence initiatives, including \$18 million toward the next family violence action plan. We have also commenced a comprehensive cross-agency Family Violence Service System Review, including evaluation of all Tasmanian Government family violence services, which will inform development of the next five-year action plan, commencing July 2019.

My Government will continue to work with key stakeholders to deliver evidence-based, best practice responses during the next stage of *Safe Homes, Safe Families*.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the implementation of *Safe Homes, Safe Families*. Together we are driving real change in our community. Together we can create a Tasmania free from family violence.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Hodgman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

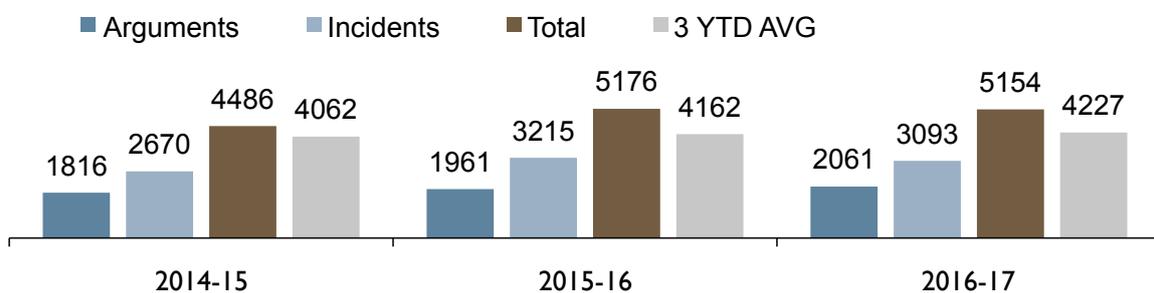
The Hon Will Hodgman MP  
**Premier**

# FAMILY VIOLENCE IN TASMANIA

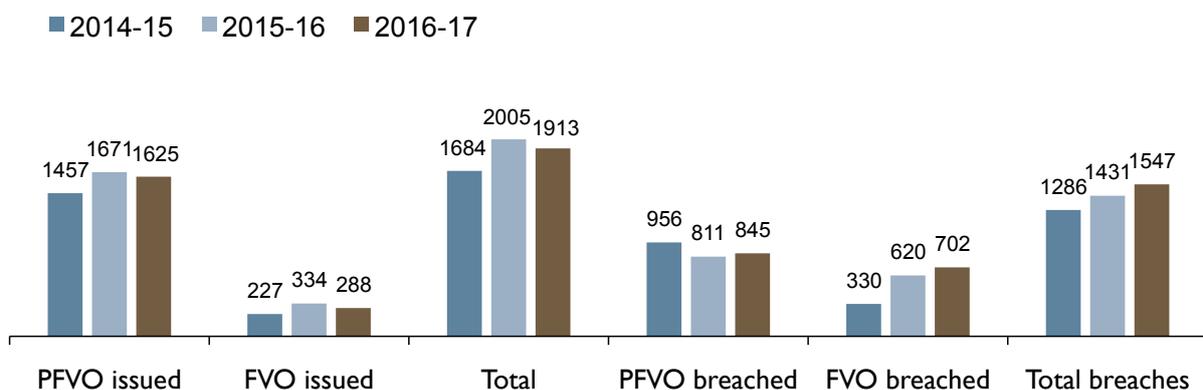
When *Safe Homes, Safe Families* was released in August 2015, it was acknowledged that greater community awareness and intolerance of family violence would help victims to feel more confident to report offences, which may lead to increased reporting.

Tasmania Police data shows a 15 per cent increase in reported family violence arguments and incidents over a three-year period from 2014-15 (4,486) to 2016-17 (5,154).<sup>1</sup>

Following an initial spike during the first year of *Safe Homes, Safe Families*, the number of reported family violence arguments and incidents was similar in 2015-16 (5,176) and 2016-17 (5,154).



The rise in reported incidence over the three-year period is paralleled by a 14 per cent increase in the number of Police Family Violence Orders (PFVOs) and Family Violence Orders (FVOs) issued. The figures for FVOs only include applications made by Police and do not capture private applications.



Tasmania Police attend reported breaches of PFVOs and FVOs. Three additional police prosecutors appointed under *Safe Homes, Safe Families* ensure the consistent and specialised prosecution of family violence offences, including breaches.

Preliminary data from the Department of Justice indicates that in 2015-16 and 2016-17 there has been an increase in the number of defendants found guilty of breaching FVOs and PFVOs under s35(1) of the *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas).

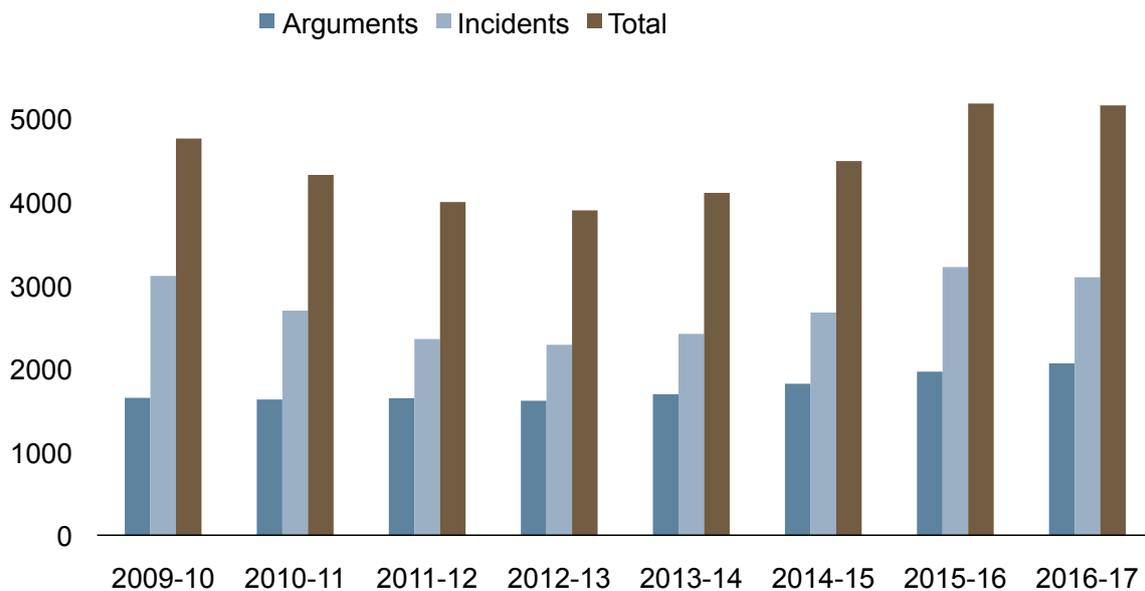
Data sourced from the June 2017 Tasmania Police Annual Corporate Performance Report, available at <http://www.police.tas.gov.au>.

# FAMILY VIOLENCE IN TASMANIA

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While an increase in the reported incidence of family violence following the release of *Safe Homes*, *Safe Families* was expected, reporting levels are predicted to stabilise over the next few years, in line with long-term trends.

The graph below shows the reported incidence of family violence over the past eight financial years.



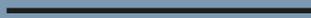
The Tasmanian Government is committed to building the evidence base for *Safe Homes*, *Safe Families* and the Family Violence Service System Review will include targeted analysis of raw data holdings within the Family Violence Management System and Safe at Home Information Management System.

Development of family violence data analytics capability in Tasmania will deliver the practice evidence to identify outcome measurements and target interventions in the new family violence action plan.

Data sourced from the June 2017 Tasmania Police Annual Corporate Performance Report, available at <http://www.police.tas.gov.au>.

**Living free from  
violence is everyone's  
right.**

**Taking action to  
prevent it is everyone's  
responsibility.**



# SAFE HOMES, SAFE FAMILIES: TASMANIA'S FAMILY VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN

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*Safe Homes, Safe Families* outlined 18 new and direct actions to address family violence in Tasmania. In line with our commitment to listen, learn and take a flexible approach, over time we have added 5 new actions to further strengthen our response.



## **Establishing Safe Families Tasmania**

- 1a. Establish the Safe Families Coordination Unit
- 1b. Establish Safe Choices



## **Changing attitudes and behaviours that lead to family violence**

2. Develop and deliver a Respectful Relationships program in all government schools
3. Take a lead role in supporting the national campaign to reduce violence against women and their children
4. Join the national Our Watch organisation
5. Roll out White Ribbon's Workplace Accreditation Program across all Tasmanian Government agencies



## **Supporting families affected by violence**

6. Support children affected by family violence in government schools and Child and Family Centres
7. Support children affected by family violence in non-government schools
8. Extend counselling services for children and young people experiencing family violence
9. Provide additional counselling services for adults experiencing family violence
10. Invest in crisis accommodation
11. Provide supported housing options



## **Strengthening our legal responses**

12. Strengthen the legislative framework to address family violence
13. Extend legal assistance to people experiencing family violence
14. Appoint more specialist police prosecutors
15. Support perpetrator programs for low to medium risk offenders
16. Extend forensic medical examination to include victims of family violence
17. Develop a business case for a Criminal Justice Information Management System
18. Improve data collection and reporting



## **Additional actions announced in 2017**

19. Develop and deliver a Safe Homes, Safe Families training program for frontline staff of the Department of Education (including LINC and TasTAFE)
20. Provide practical supports to enable victims of family violence to stay safely in their own homes
21. Develop a practice guide to support service providers working with clients impacted by family violence
22. Work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to support Aboriginal families experiencing family violence
23. Trial of electronic monitoring of high risk family violence offenders



Brook Teale, Amanda Johnson, Natalie Cooling, Wendy Spencer and Bridget Eltham accepting the 2017 IPAA Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Collaboration for the Tasmanian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet, Safe Homes, Safe Families from Senator the Hon James McGrath.



Commissioner Darren Hine, Tasmania Police, the Hon Jacqui Petrusma MP, Minister for Women, Jenny Gale, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Kim Evans, State Growth, Michael Pervan, Department of Health, the Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman MP, Tracy McLeod Howe, White Ribbon, guest speaker Chris Taylor, Ginna Webster, Communities Tasmania, Anton Voss, Department of Treasury and Finance, John Wittington, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tim Bullard, Department of Education, and John Fitzgerald, Tourism Tasmania celebrating White Ribbon Night at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery on 26 July 2018. Behind them is 'Wings of Hope' by Tasmanian artist Amanda Facey.

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE MILESTONES

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With the majority of *Safe Homes*, *Safe Families* actions now implemented, activity is largely focused on ongoing delivery or the expansion of delivery models.

The next 12 months will include evaluation of all actions to inform a new family violence action plan.



## Establishing Safe Families Tasmania

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### Key Achievements (1 January 2017 – 30 June 2018)

- The Safe Families Coordination Unit made 2,608 recommendations to partner agencies and mapped 428 high risk family violence incidents (Action 1a).
- Independent review of the Safe Families Coordination Unit completed by 31 March 2018 (Action 1a).
- Safe Choices North-West site operational from 30 June 2017 (Action 1b).
- Safe Choices North site operational from 2 July 2018 (Action 1b).

### Future Milestones (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019)

- Development and implementation of a revised risk framework for the Safe Families Coordination Unit by 30 July 2018 (Action 1a).
- Independent review of the Safe Families Coordination Unit completed, with findings being considered by agencies in 2018-19 (Action 1a).
- Evaluation of Safe Choices, including independent consultation and review (Dec 2018).



## Action 1a – Safe Families Coordination Unit

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**3,752** recommendations made to partner agencies to better support victims of family violence and hold perpetrators to account.

“...It was helpful in general to get an all-round picture of (perpetrator) past behaviour...I would say just having the pieces of the puzzle overall has helped us to consider where-to from here in terms of case direction. The pattern and history of violent and aggressive behaviour really stands out for us. We were able to put together a bit of a timeline from the information provided by the SFCU...”

**Feedback from Tasmanian Government Department**

“ I was able to get a much more holistic overview of the victim’s needs, which I wouldn’t otherwise have had (following the Unit’s recommendation to a partner agency).”

**Feedback from Tasmanian Government Department**

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE MILESTONES

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## Changing attitudes and behaviours that lead to family violence

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### *Key Achievements (1 January 2017 – 30 June 2018)*

- Respectful Relationships Education Program implemented in all Tasmanian Government schools by end of Term 1 2018 (Action 2).
- Respectful Relationships community engagement sessions piloted at Sheffield School and Sorell District High School in 2017 (Action 2).
- Respectful Relationships Education professional learning workshops delivered statewide (Action 2).
- National Campaign *Stop It At the Start!* advertising burst 5 November – 2 December 2017.
- Nine Our Watch initiatives promoted in Tasmania to support 'Change the Story' framework (Action 4).
- Our Watch stakeholder consultations held in Launceston in October 2017 and in Hobart in March 2018 (Action 4).
- The Department of State Growth (Group Two) commenced White Ribbon Accreditation in June 2017 (Action 5).
- The Department of Education and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Group Two) achieved White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation in March 2018 (Action 5).
- The Department of Justice (Group Three) commenced the White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation Program in May 2018 (Action 5).

### *Future Milestones (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019)*

- Respectful Relationships Education professional learning workshops and an update of online professional learning modules (Action 2).
- Support further Respectful Relationships Education community engagement sessions (Action 2).
- Phase 2 of *Stop It At The Start!* National Campaign (Action 3).
- Grant deed with Our Watch for final year of Safe Homes, Safe Families finalised (Action 4).
- Our Watch Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resource to support 'Change the Story' framework released (Action 4).
- Our Watch bystander training for prevention practitioners (Action 4).
- The Departments of Premier and Cabinet; Treasury and Finance; and Police Fire and Emergency Management commence reaccreditation for White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation Program, November 2018 (Action 5).





## Action 1b – Safe Choices

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**400** clients provided with support, counselling and referrals.

“ Safe Choices helped me at a time where I was most helpless and vulnerable. They have taught me life skills and given my independence and autonomy back. ”

**Safe Choices client**

“ Safe Choices has given me great insight and strength to help me have more control over my life and property and I definitely have been left feeling empowered. ”

**Safe Choices client**

“ I can't thank you enough for all your help... I know it will be a long road to getting back on my feet again but I know I will eventually get there and you are a crucial part of that process. ”

**Safe Choices client**

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE MILESTONES

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## Supporting families affected by violence

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### Key Achievements (1 January 2017 – 30 June 2018)

- Over 2,300 hours of counselling services provided for children and young people experiencing family violence (Action 8).
- Safe Choices Liaison Officer, co-located within Child Safety Services, appointed to manage referrals to the broader family violence service system (funded through the National Campaign – link to Action 3).
- Over 2,300 hours of direct counselling services provided for adult victims of family violence (Action 9).
- The new Hobart Women's Shelter opened in March 2018, increasing capacity by over 30 per cent (Action 10).
- Target of 50 properties available through Rapid Rehousing rental pool met by 30 June 2017 (Action 11).
- Review of the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) forensic medical examination pilot for victims of family violence completed in July 2017. The service continues to operate at RHH (Action 16).
- Forensic medical examination service for family violence victims extended to Launceston General Hospital (December 2017) (Action 16).

### Future Milestones (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019)

- Tasmania Catholic Education Office and Independent Schools Tasmania 2019 Grant Deeds finalised (Action 7).
- Planning for new additional accommodation in the South for women in crisis (*Safe Homes, Safe Families: Next Steps*).
- Mapping accommodation need for families in crisis in the North and North-West (*Safe Homes, Safe Families: Next Steps*).





## **Action 6 – Support for children in Tasmanian Government schools and Child and Family Centres**

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The Safe Home, Safe Families Support Team worked with Tasmanian Government schools and Child and Family Centres to support approximately **2,700** students impacted by family violence.

“ The Safe Homes, Safe Families team has been instrumental in providing ongoing/timely insights into family violence situations and important background information which has allowed our team (Student Wellbeing Team) to better understand the children and families we have been working with. ”

**Student Wellbeing Social Worker**

“ In our school we have two students who have suffered trauma and family violence. This has led to significant trust and safety issues within the children. After contacting the Safe Homes Safe Families team we have been able to put in place a process and support structures for the children and the family. This has allowed us as a school to focus on what we can do knowing that the children and family are being supported in their journey to transition to a more organised structured and safe family. ”

**Tasmanian Government school Principal**

\* This number includes children who have been named more than once in notifications during the reporting period. Support under Action 6 includes working closely with schools to identify and mitigate risk for children impacted by family violence and providing one-on-one support for children and their families where required

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE MILESTONES

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## Strengthening our legal responses

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### Key Achievements (1 January 2017 – 30 June 2018)

- Family Violence Amendment Bill 2017 received Royal Assent in December 2017 (Action 12).
- Over 970 family violence victims accessed additional legal assistance (Action 13).
- Women's Legal Service Tasmania established an office in Launceston to service the North and North-East (Action 13).
- Over 2,300 family violence matters submitted to Prosecution Services (Action 14).
- EQUIPS Domestic Abuse Program for medium risk male perpetrators and EQUIPS Aggression Program for violent perpetrators (including female perpetrators) introduced through Community Corrections in April 2017 (Action 15).
- Men Engaging New Strategies (MENS) program for to low-medium risk perpetrators commenced in February 2017 (Action 15).
- Safe at Home Information Management System (SIMS) data exchange with Australian Government Department of Social Services achieved (Action 18).

### Future Milestones (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019)

- Specifications for the Justice Connect Project (previously 'Criminal Justice Information System') finalised (Action 17).
- Introduce legislation to support establishment of Body Worn Cameras (Action 12).
- Introduce legislation to enable tenancy agreements to be ended where a family violence order is in place (Action 12).
- Employment of an additional Safe at Home legal practitioner in the North West (*Safe Homes, Safe Families: Next Steps*).
- Employment of an additional Safe at Home Police Prosecutor (*Safe Homes, Safe Families: Next Steps*).
- Employment of an additional Court Support and Liaison Officer in the South (*Safe Homes, Safe Families: Next Steps*).
- Additional resources provided to the Safe at Home Coordination Unit to support the operation of Safe at Home (*Safe Homes, Safe Families: Next Steps*).
- Creation of new offence of 'Persistent Family Violence' (*Safe Homes, Safe Families: Next Steps*).





## Action 8 – Extend counselling services for children and young people experiencing family violence

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**2,474** hours of counselling provided

**453** children and young people accessing services

“ Mum and I are closer now, we have a better relationship. ”

**Australian Childhood Foundation,  
child client**

“ Your support has been inspirational combined with your professionalism and kindness. My children will now be able to stand tall and proud into the future. ”

**Mother of two children**

“ Thank you for your understanding and support...this is the first time I've felt believed about how hard things are and how much I'm giving my all to my kids and won't give up on them. It makes me feel so much better to know that you can see what is going on for my kids but don't judge any of us. ”

**Mother of four children**



## Action 9 – Provide additional counselling services for adults experiencing family violence

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**2,236** hours of direct service provided

**1,051** adults accessing services

“ I am very grateful and appreciative of the counselling and support I have been given. I do not know how I would have survived without this support. My life has been threatened and I now know how dangerous my situation had become. It was, and still is, but I now have strategies to mitigate lots of it. I also have been given knowledge of behaviours to expect – that has empowered me. ”

**Engender Equality client**

“ Engender [Equality] has empowered me to be more aware of family violence and also to believe in myself, trust my gut and make good, healthy decisions in many areas of my life. ”

**Engender Equality client**

“ This is the only place I feel safe to talk. I have gained so much understanding and have ways to cope. This is the best thing I have done after [all] of the things that have happened. ”

**Engender Equality client**

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE MILESTONES

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## **+** Additional actions announced in 2017

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### *Key Achievements (1 January 2017 – 30 June 2018)*

- Over 100 women supported to stay safely in their own home, or a home of their choice through security upgrades and safety planning (Action 20).
- Security upgrades program expanded to Housing Tasmania properties (Action 20).
- *Responding to family violence: A guide for service providers and practitioners* launched in August 2017 (Action 21).
- Three Aboriginal Family Safety Workers appointed at Burnie, Ravenswood and Bridgewater Child and Family Centres to support Aboriginal families affected by family violence (Action 22).
- Planning commenced for trial of electronic monitoring device for family violence perpetrators (Action 23).

### *Future Milestones (1 January 2017 – 30 June 2018)*

- Security upgrades program expanded to crisis accommodation and transitional housing services (Action 20).
- Pre-employment training package delivered by December 2018 (Action 22).
- Evaluation of pre-employment training program and Aboriginal Family Safety Worker program (Action 22).
- Commence trial of electronic monitoring devices for family violence perpetrators (Action 23).



## **+** Action 20 – Keeping Women Safe in their Homes

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**102** women supported to remain in their home, or home of their choice, through security upgrades and safety planning.

“ She is feeling more secure in her home following all the work undertaken through Keeping Women Safe. She is very pleased with the solid doors, chain and peephole at the front door, as she can monitor who comes to the door prior to opening it. ”

**Family violence service provider**

“ One client this week stated that ‘the re-keying of her home has led to her children feeling increased levels of safety and that they now sleep more soundly. ”

**Family violence service provider**

## **+** Action 22 – Aboriginal Family Safety Workers

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**787** Aboriginal parents and children supported by Aboriginal Family Safety Workers in Child and Family Centres.

“ This mother has been in the system herself... and is doing a fabulous job and her confidence is growing immensely... she personally is feeling the best she ever has for 40 years... it made me feel so good about what we are currently doing in the workplace. This lady deserves to be happy, she has had an unfortunate life. ”

**Aboriginal Family Safety Worker**

\* This number is based on occasions of care and represents a minimum number based on families that have identified as Aboriginal

# SAFE HOMES, SAFE FAMILIES

## NEXT STEPS

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### A RESPONSIVE APPROACH

The Tasmanian Government continues to listen to and work with the Family Violence Consultative Group, which has been critical to driving real change to eliminate violence against women and their children in Tasmania.

On 13 September 2017, the Consultative Group and the Family Violence Steering Committee met to discuss the Tasmanian Government's continued response to family violence.

We have listened and are taking steps to respond to the priority areas for action identified by the Consultative Group:

**1. Continue – Consolidate – Evaluate** “it is vital to continue and consolidate the delivery of Safe Homes, Safe Families action and evaluate implementation thoroughly to measure long-term impact.”

**Response:** We have commenced a comprehensive Family Violence Service System Review, including evaluation of all Tasmanian Government funded family violence services.

The Review will include analysis of service data, a scan of system responses, and stakeholder interviews. Through a rigorous evaluation framework, the next five-year family violence action plan (commencing by July 2019) will be underpinned by current evidence and designed to reflect best practice.

**2. Demand on family violence services:** greater community awareness and intolerance of family violence in Tasmania has resulted in increased reporting and demand on family violence services.

**Response** “We have invested \$1.5 million in additional funding for the Safe at Home service system to address the increased demand following the release of *Safe Homes, Safe Families*.”

**3. Housing:** there is a need to explore options to address the increased demand and waitlists for crisis and supported housing for families affected by family violence, with particular attention to providing housing support in regional areas.

**Response:** We have commenced mapping the statewide needs for new additional accommodation for households affected by family violence, including regional areas. Options being explored form part of the consultation on the next *Affordable Housing Action Plan*.

**4. Behaviour change programs** “expand the delivery of current behaviour change programs to address specific cohorts, notably medium to high-risk perpetrators in community-based programs and young men (including under 18 years of age).”

**Response:** We have secured Australian Government funding to develop and trial, in the South of the State, a one-year rehabilitative program for adolescents who use violence within an intimate relationship (16 and 17 year olds).



**5. Broad, family-based service responses** “prioritise a joined-up approach to service delivery to support women and their children affected by family violence, acknowledging that families accessing family violence services are likely to engage with multiple services. Focus on opportunities for early intervention service responses for at-risk families.”

**Response:** The Family Violence Service System review will support the development of an informed and coordinated response by: mapping related Australian Government services delivered in Tasmania; scanning related jurisdictional responses and service system reviews; and examining the interrelationship between *Safe Homes, Safe Families* and other key Tasmanian Government strategies.

**6. Extended definition of ‘family relationship’** “continue to examine extending the types of family relationships captured under the *Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)* (the Act), recognising the impact an increased scope would have on service delivery. This could include consolidating new and/or existing services to meet identified gaps under the current definition.”

**Response:** We will continue to examine the types of family relationships captured under the Act through the development of the next family violence action plan. We will consider identified gaps under the current definition, and explore solutions to protect groups that are at risk.

Safe Choices provides an example of an initiative that addresses an identified gap, with the program’s Local Support Coordinator supporting women with disability experiencing violence.

**7. Deliver primary prevention strategies through targeted settings and cohorts** “Build on the national campaign and other primary prevention strategies (including the Department of Education’s Respectful Relationships Education) to deliver cohort-specific messaging and programs. Primary prevention strategies should engage communities to drive cultural change that supports the elimination of violence against women.”

**Response:** We will work with at-risk communities to promote tailored resources developed under Phase Two of the *Stop It At the Start!* National Campaign. Development of the next family violence action plan will examine further opportunities to deliver cohort-specific messaging and programs.

We have also committed \$450,000 over three years to deliver Project O, a primary prevention program supporting young women in the North West.

# GOING FORWARD

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## Addressing sexual violence

In our commitment to eliminate all forms of violence, the Tasmanian Government is also investing \$200,000 to comprehensively research and develop the first whole-of-government Sexual Violence Action Plan, including a review of multi-disciplinary models operating across Australia and recommendations regarding the best approach for Tasmania.

In recognition that sexual violence often intersects and overlaps with family violence, the Sexual Violence Action Plan will be an identified action under the new family violence action plan. This supports alignment of the Tasmanian Government's response to the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022*, which focuses on the two main types of violence that impact on women in Australia: family violence and sexual assault. The Sexual Violence Action Plan will recognise that sexual violence is not limited to intimate partner relationships and requires separate and additional responses to family violence.

## Consultation

The Family Violence Consultative Group is comprised of representatives from key family violence service providers and community sector organisations. Consultation is an important aspect in the evaluation of *Safe Homes, Safe Families*, and the Consultative Group has made a positive contribution by continuing to provide input and feedback during the implementation phase.

The Consultative Group receives updates on the progress of the *Safe Homes, Safe Families* and will be engaged to inform development of both the new family violence and sexual violence action plans.

## Future reporting

Tasmanian Government departments will continue to provide quarterly progress reports to the Premier, outlining the progress of actions, achievements and future priorities.

In 2019, we will publish the next edition of this report: *Responding and Reporting 2019*.

## Evidence based approach

Since the release of the first *Responding and Reporting* in March 2017, a growing body of work across Australia has contributed new evidence and resulted in changes to the policy environment, including:

- research findings published by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety;
- research findings published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from the 2016 Personal Safety Survey covering the nature and extent of violence experienced by men and women; and
- the release of the *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia 2018* report published by the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing.



In response to these developments, and informed by our learnings to date, in May 2017 we announced a three year electronic monitoring trial of high risk family violence perpetrators as Action 23 under Safe Homes, Safe Families. The trial will be used to assist in determining whether technology can prevent or reduce incidents of family violence.

Driven by identified needs, the 2018-19 State Budget included a number of family violence focused or related initiatives:

- \$18 million across three years in forward estimates for the next five-year family violence action plan;
- \$1.5 million over two years for the Safe at Home service system to support increased service demand;
- \$450,000 over three years to support the innovative 'Project O' family violence primary prevention project on the North-West Coast; and
- \$200,000 to research and develop a whole-of-government Action Plan Against Sexual Violence.

The Tasmanian Government is also committed to working with the Council of Australian Governments to progress joint initiatives to end violence against women, such as the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions (NOSPI) and implementing the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022*. We are currently supporting the Australian Government in the development of the *National Plan's* Fourth Action Plan, due for release by the end of 2019.

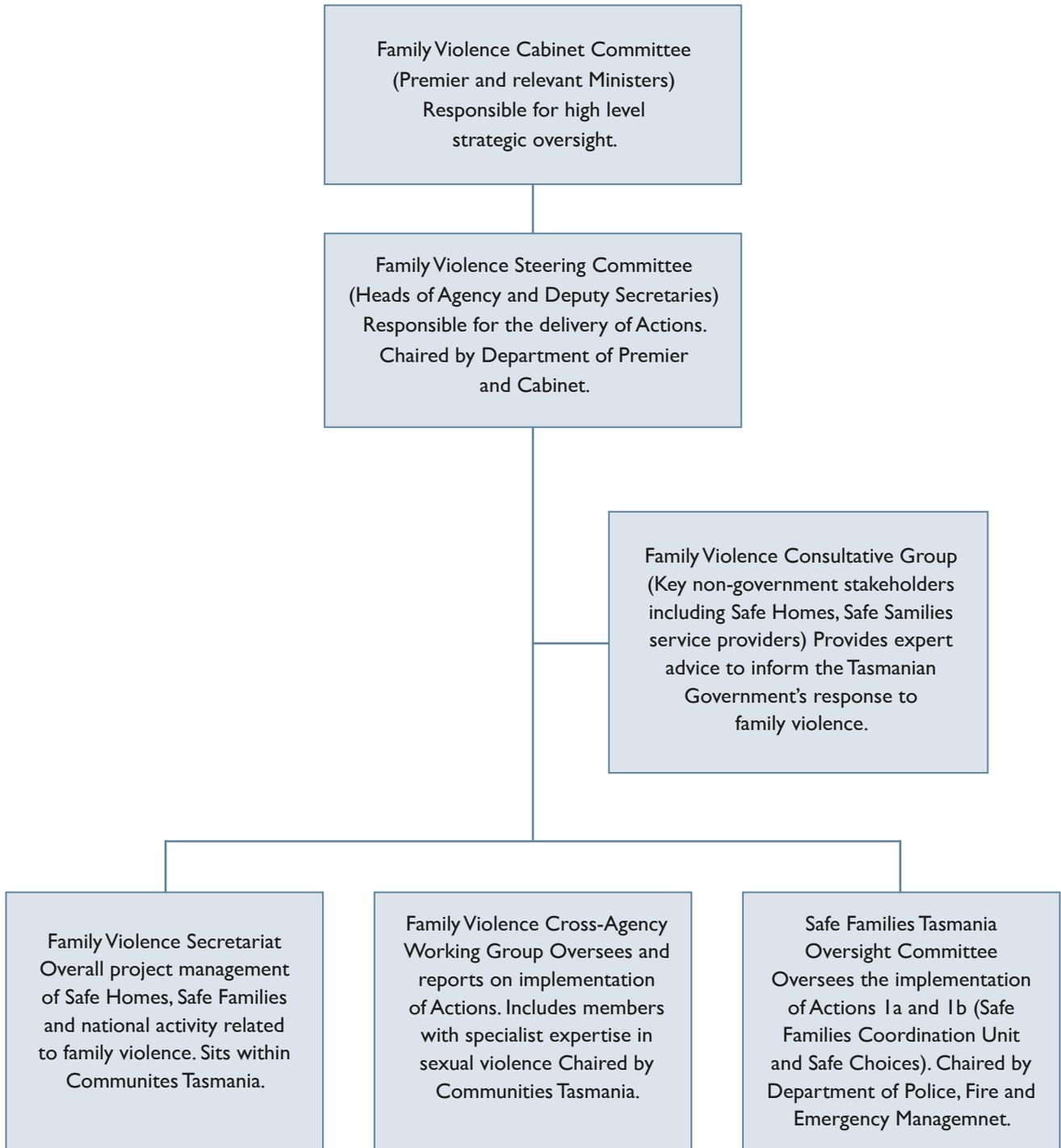
NOSPI is a set of outcomes-focused standards designed to drive reform across the perpetrator system to ensure perpetrators of violence against women are held to account through consistent standards, and perpetrator interventions are driven by credible evidence. To support the NOSPI, we have established a data sharing arrangement with the Department of Social Services under Action 18 of *Safe Homes, Safe Families*. We will continue to develop and improve our data systems, to achieve the long term goal of measuring progress against NOSPI.

Reporting under NOSPI commenced in 2015-16 and in subsequent years, Tasmania will be able to use this data to measure our progress against the indicators, and analyse data trending to inform our perpetrator interventions.

# GOVERNANCE

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The implementation of *Safe Homes*, *Safe Families* will continue to be supported by a collaborative and coordinated governance structure.



By taking strong action together we send  
a clear message that family violence is  
unacceptable in our community.

## **Department of Communities**

Email: [fvap@communities.tas.gov.au](mailto:fvap@communities.tas.gov.au) | Visit: [www.dpac.tas.gov.au/safehomessafefamilies](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/safehomessafefamilies)

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### **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

or visit [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)

**In an emergency, always call 000**



**Tasmanian  
Government**