Taking Action: Tasmania's Primary Prevention Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2012-2022

Community Development Division
Department of Premier and Cabinet

Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

Contents

Principles

☐ Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.[1]

☐ Despite this basic human right, violence can happen to anybody, regardless of gender, race, culture, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or location.

☐ Significantly reducing violence against women and children is a long-term goal that can only be achieved by changing the social norms and traditional gender role attitudes, whether held by women or men, which are associated with a greater acceptance of violence against women and children.

☐ *Taking Action: Tasmania's Primary Prevention Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2012-22* has been developed by the Tasmanian Government with the understanding that the attitudinal changes required to significantly reduce violence against women and children will occur over time.

☐ All members of society have a role to play in preventing violence against women.

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[1] United Nations: *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, accessed 17 October 2012 at www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/

1. Introduction

Through the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children* (the *National Plan*), Australia now has a 12 year plan to reduce violence against women and their children. The *National Plan* is a long-term plan that will be delivered through four three-year Actions Plans:

1. Building a Strong Foundation (2010-2013)
2. Moving Ahead (2013-2016)
3. Promising Results (2016-2019)
4. Turning the Corner (2019-2022)

As well as working with the Commonwealth Government to progress the *National Plan*, Tasmania has developed a complementary *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children – Tasmanian Implementation Plan* (the *Tasmanian Implementation Plan*).

Taking Action: Tasmania's Primary Prevention Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2012-22 (the Strategy) is a component of the *Tasmanian Implementation Plan.*

1.1 Development of this Strategy

The Strategy has been developed from an initial Discussion Paper, *A primary prevention framework to reduce family violence and sexual assault in Tasmania 2012-15*, which was circulated to the Tasmanian community in June 2012.

Comments and recommended actions received through the consultation process have been incorporated into the Strategy where practicable. However, the range of comments and proposed actions that fell outside the scope of the Discussion Paper (ie secondary and tertiary responses to violence against women and children) have not been included.

The Strategy adopts a public health approach to reducing violence against women and children with social justice as a core value.

1.2 Family Violence and Sexual Assault – Gendered Crimes

Family violence and sexual assault are considered gendered crimes, ie perpetrated primarily by men against women. While the majority of incidents will involve a male offender and female victim, we must recognise that, on occasion, the opposite will be the case or may involve transgendered or persons of the same sex. It is also important to acknowledge that most men do not commit acts of violence against women and children.

> Intimate partner violence occurs mainly from adolescence and early adulthood onwards, most often in the context of marriage or cohabitation, and usually includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse as well as controlling behaviours. Sexual violence can occur at any age – including childhood – and can be perpetrated by parents, caregivers, acquaintances and strangers, as well as intimate partners. Both forms of violence are in the majority perpetrated by men against girls and women; however the sexual abuse of male children is also common. Intimate partner violence may also be perpetrated by women against men and can occur in the context of same-sex relationships.
>
> World Health Organisation, *Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women*, 2010

1.3 What is Primary Prevention?

Primary prevention activity aims to prevent violence before it occurs. Primary prevention interventions can be delivered to the whole population or to particular groups at higher risk of using or experiencing violence in the future. Primary prevention interventions may focus on changing public attitudes and behaviour or building the knowledge and skills of individuals to empower them to make changes in their behaviour that will stop them from becoming victims or perpetrators of violence in the future.[2]

The development of evidence-based primary prevention initiatives for family violence and sexual assault is still a relatively new field. Evidence is emerging of the effectiveness of a number of programs and strategies for preventing family violence and sexual assault, including gender equality education; efforts to reduce the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs; and, changing social and cultural gender norms. At present only one strategy has evidence supporting its effectiveness – that is school based programs to prevent violence within dating relationships.[3]

However, this in no way precludes introducing programs that have evidence supporting their effectiveness, such as bystander or community mobilisation programs. A range of

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[2] VicHealth, *Preventing violence before it occurs: a framework and background paper to guide the primary prevention of violence against women in Victoria*, Melbourne, 2007, p. 9

[3] World Health Organisation, *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: Taking action and generating evidence*, 2010, p.1, accessed 20 September 2012 at
http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241564007/en/

other programs are being trialled in different parts of the world and as evidence emerges of their effectiveness they can be adapted to the Australian context.

Appendix 1 contains a range of primary prevention strategies for family violence and sexual assault compiled by the World Health Organisation for which some evidence of efficacy is available.

1.4 A Public Health Approach to the Prevention of Violence

A public health approach to the prevention of violence aims to provide the maximum benefit to the largest number of people, rather than focussing on the individual, to extend better care and safety to the entire population. The public health approach is interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral considering that violence, rather than being the result of any single factor, is the outcome of multiple risk factors and causes.[4]

Figure 1: Public Health Model for Protecting Australia's Children[5]

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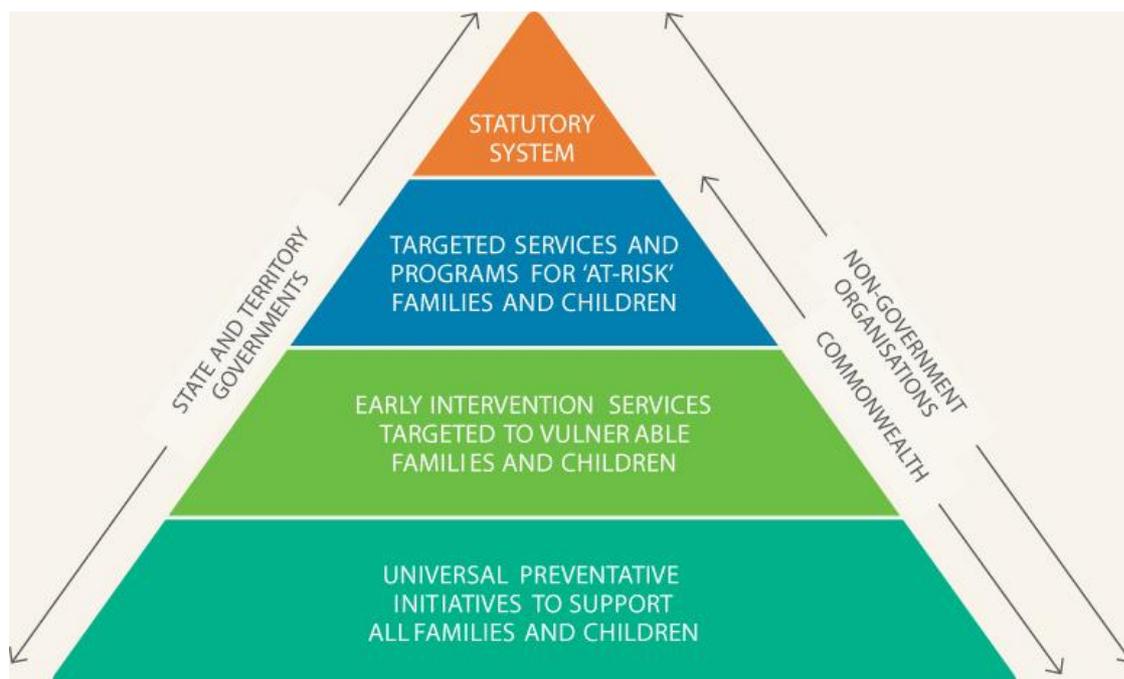
[4] Ibid pp.6-7

[5] Commonwealth of Australia, *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020: Second three-year action plan, 2012-2015*, 2012, p.9

While Figure 1 specifically relates to child protection, it illustrates how a public health model functions. Priority is placed on having universal supports (for example health and education) available for all families. More intensive (secondary) prevention interventions are provided to those families who need additional assistance, with a focus on early intervention. Tertiary prevention services such as those involving the statutory system are a last resort for families and governments.

1.5 The Social-ecological Model

Current approaches to gender-based crime prevention acknowledge that:

> There is no single factor to explain why one person and not another behaves in a violent manner, nor why one community will be torn apart by violence while a neighbouring community lives in peace. Violence is an extremely complex phenomenon that has its roots in the interaction of many factors – biological, social, cultural, economic, and political.

(World Health Organisation, *World report on violence and health: Summary*, 2002, p.9)

The understanding of gender-based crime as having multiple causal factors is best conceptualised by the social-ecological model that demonstrates the interactive nature of factors that contribute to violence. The social-ecological model below depicts the interrelatedness of different spheres of social life and the interactions between individuals and their environments.[6]

Figure 2: Ecological Model of the Factors Influencing Violence Perpetration

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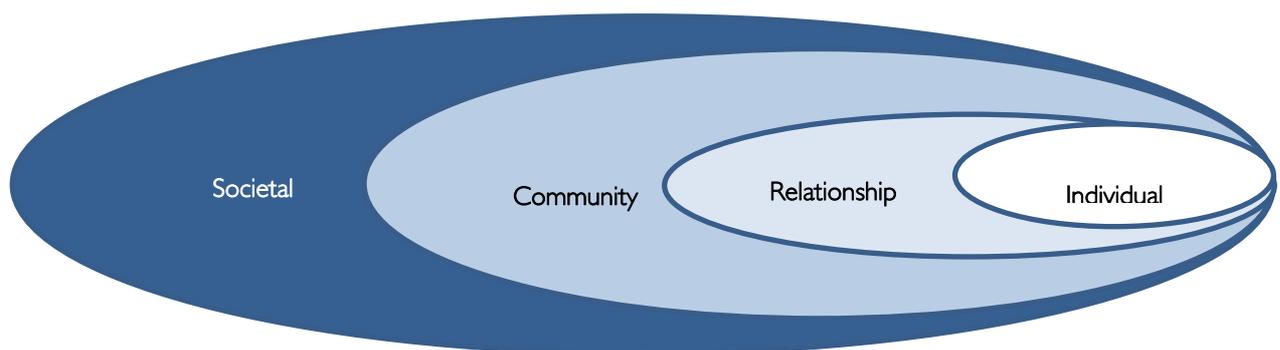
[6] Quadara, A & Wall, L, 'What is effective primary prevention in sexual assault? Translating evidence for action', *ACSSA Wrap, No. 11*, 2012, accessed on 12 October 2012 at www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/wrap/wrap11/index.html

Individual level influences: personal history factors are not causal but may increase the likelihood of an individual becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. These risk factors include alcohol and/or drug use; attitudes and beliefs that support violence; impulsive and other antisocial tendencies; hostility towards women; and a childhood history of sexual abuse or witnessing family violence – all of which can influence an individual's behaviour choices that lead to the perpetration of violence.

Interpersonal relationship level influences: factors that increase risk as a result of relationships with peers, intimate partners, and family members. Peers, partners, and family members can reinforce attitudes and shape an individual's behaviour and range of experiences – all of which can influence an individual's behavioural choices that lead to the perpetration of violence.

Community level influences: factors that increase risk based on community and social environments and inform an individual's experiences and relationships with schools, workplaces, and neighbourhoods. For example, a lack of sexual harassment policies in the workplace can send a message that sexual harassment is tolerated, and that there may be few or no consequences for those who harass others.

Societal level influences: larger, structural factors such as government policies or laws that influence violence, for example, gender inequality, religious or cultural belief systems, societal norms, and economic or social policies that create or sustain gaps and tensions between groups of people – all of which can influence an individual's behavioural choices that lead to the perpetration of violence.

The levels of influences are not rigid or mutually exclusive.[7]

1.6 A Social Justice Approach to the Prevention of Violence against Women

Fundamentally, family violence and sexual assault are about inequities and injustice.[8] Social justice is based on the concepts of human rights and equality, ensuring the rights of all people in our community are considered in a fair and equitable manner through systemic

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[7] Quadara, A & Wall, L, 'What is effective primary prevention in sexual assault? Translating evidence for action', pp 4-5

[8] Michau, Lori, *Community Mobilisation: Preventing Partner Violence by Changing Social Norms*: Expert paper prepared for the UN Expert Group Meeting, Prevention of violence against women and girls, 2012, accessed 20 September 2012 at http://www.unwomen.org/events/59/expert-group-meeting-prevention-of-violence-against-women-and-girls/

and structural social arrangements. A social justice approach recognises gender inequality as a key factor in violence against women.

Social justice includes a commitment to the view that:

- a fair distribution and share of natural and social resources should be made across society;

- those in positions of societal, political and organisational responsibility should pursue this fair distribution;

- social justice pays attention to and is in solidarity with those who are disadvantaged and excluded in society; and

- socially just structures are vital and should be maintained as a key to achieve social justice[9].

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[9] Baldry, Eileen, 'The Revival of Social Justice' (Speech delivered at the Marg Barry Memorial Lecture, Alexandria Town Hall, 16 September 2010)

2. Defining the problem

2.1 Tasmanian Definition of Family Violence and Sexual Assault

2.1.1 Family Violence

Every jurisdiction in Australia has its own terminology and legislation surrounding family/domestic violence. Tasmania uses the term 'family' violence rather than domestic violence to acknowledge that children who witness intimate partner violence have their safety, psychological wellbeing or interests affected by violence directed at one of their carers, and are therefore, victims in their own right. The Tasmanian *Family Violence Act 2004* provides for an integrated criminal justice response to family violence and aims to promote the safety of people affected by family violence.

The *Family Violence Act 2004* defines family violence as:

(a) any of the following types of conduct committed by a person, directly or indirectly, against that person's spouse or partner:

   (i) assault, including sexual assault;
   (ii) threats, coercion, intimidation or verbal abuse;
   (iii) abduction; and
   (iv) stalking within the meaning of <u>section 192 of the *Criminal Code*</u>;

(b) any of the following:

   (i) economic abuse;
   (ii) emotional abuse or intimidation; and
   (iii) contravening an external family violence order, an interim FVO, an FVO or a Police Family Violence Order.

2.1.2 Sexual Assault

Every jurisdiction in Australia has its own legislation for sexual offences, which sits within either a Crimes Act or Criminal Code Act. South Australian legislation sits within the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*.

The Tasmanian *Criminal Code Act 1924* defines rape and sexual assault as:

s185. Rape:

Any person who has sexual intercourse with another person without that person's consent is guilty of a crime.

s127A. Aggravated sexual assault:

A person who unlawfully and indecently assaults another person by the penetration to the least degree of the vagina, genitalia or anus of that other person by –

(a) any part of the human body other than the penis; or

(b) an inanimate object.

Unlike family violence, victims of sexual assault are often not the spouse or partner of the perpetrator. Perpetrators of sexual assault include a broad spectrum from family members through to strangers.

Forty to 45 per cent of women who are physically abused by their intimate partners are also forced into sexual activities by them. Women who are sexually assaulted by their partners experience a number of serious risks that are different and more serious than women who experience physical violence alone[10]. These include:

– a greater risk of being killed by their partner;

– stress-related symptoms;

– increased likelihood of gynaecological problems; and

– detrimental emotional and mental health effects.

2.2 Incidence of Family Violence in Tasmania

Whilst the reported rate of family violence has decreased over the past five years in Tasmania, Tasmania Police, through Safe at Home, dealt with 2 509 family violence incidents under the *Family Violence Act 2004* in the 2011-12 financial year.[11]

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[10] Wall, Liz, *Asking women about intimate partner sexual violence*, Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault: ACSSA Resource Sheet, June 2012, accessed 26 September 2013, http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/sheets/rs4/index.html

[11] Department of Police and Emergency Management 2012, *Annual Report 2011-12*, p.27, accessed 12 February 2013, http://www.police.tas.gov.au/historical-corporate-documents/annual-report-2011-2012/

Table 1: Number of family violence incidents attended by Tasmania Police

Family Violence Incidents	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011	2011-12
	3 408	3 452	3 109	2 693	2 509

For a range of reasons, some victims of family violence do not report family violence incidents to police. Therefore, the true number of family violence incidents is unknown.

2.3 Incidence of Sexual Assault in Tasmania

In the 2011-12 financial year Tasmania Police had 126 incidents of sexual assault reported to them. The number of sexual assaults reported to police varies from year to year due to the reporting of sexual assaults committed many years, and sometimes, decades ago. In 2011-12 eighty six per cent of recorded victims of sexual assault were female.[12]

Table 2: Number of sexual assaults reported to Tasmania Police

Sexual Assault Offences Recorded	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011	2011-2012
	229	176	176	195	126

The existing research on sexual assault indicates that it is often an 'invisible' crime. The vast majority of victims who are sexually assaulted do not report the crime or seek any intervention and 'silencing' of the victim by threat or manipulation is a common strategy of perpetrators, particularly in relation to child sexual assault.[13] Some forms of sexual violence may be even less likely to be reported than others. Notably, incidents (whether sexual or physical) committed by a current or former intimate partner are less likely to be reported than those incidents committed by strangers.[14]

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[12] Department of Police and Emergency Management 2011, *Annual Report 2010-11*, p. 38

[13] Tasmanian Government, *Report of the Taskforce on Sexual Assault and Rape in Tasmania*, 1998, Hobart, p. 15

[14] Mouzos, J & Makkai, T, 2004, *Women's Experiences of Male Violence: Findings of the Australian Component of the International Violence Against Women Survey*, Australian Institute of Criminology, Research and Public Policy Series No. 56, p. 92

Table 3: Number of clients accessing sexual assault services in Tasmania[15]

Number of Sexual Assault Clients Statewide	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011	2011-2012
	1 470*	1 859	1 716	1 751	1 802

* North-West figures unavailable

These figures include clients who have experienced recent and historical sexual assault. Many clients attend counselling support services specifically to ameliorate the impact of sexual violence long after the incident when the effects have become chronic.

Clients include women, men, children of both sexes and children up to the age of 13 exhibiting problem sexual behaviour and sexually abusive behaviour.

2.4 Children's Exposure to Family Violence

Safe at Home data indicates that over 2 400 children were present at family violence incidents where there was a police intervention in 2010-11.[16]

Research indicates that children exposed to family violence can experience a range of harms as a result of the violence including:[17]

- depression;
- anxiety;
- trauma symptoms;
- increased aggression;
- antisocial behaviour;
- lower social competence;

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[15] Figures obtained from the North-West Centre Against Sexual Assault, Laurel House (North) and the Sexual Assault Support Service (South) in July 2012 and February 2013

[16] Department of Justice, *Safe at Home Summarised Activity Report 2004-11*, Hobart (unpublished data)

[17] Richards, K, 'Children's exposure to domestic violence in Australia', *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice, No. 419*, Australian Institute of Criminology, June 2011, accessed 8 December 2011, http://www.aic.gov.au/en/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi419.aspx

- temperament problems;
- low self-esteem;
- the presence of pervasive fear;
- mood problems;
- loneliness;
- school difficulties;
- peer conflict;
- impaired cognitive functioning;
- increased likelihood of substance abuse;
- alienation; and
- inability to participate in school and other activities where economic abuse is a factor.

In addition, women who leave violent relationships often suffer severe financial distress and may experience homelessness, which also impacts on their children's health and wellbeing.

Recognition of the potentially detrimental effects of exposure to family violence on children led the Tasmanian Government to recognise children as victims in their own right through the Family Violence Act. Changes were also made to the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* to recognise exposure to family violence during childhood as a form of child abuse. Other governments are increasingly following suit.

2.5 Child Victims of Sexual Assault

The most under-reported of all crimes is sexual assault perpetrated against children. Eighteen per cent of women surveyed in the Australian component of the International Violence Against Women Survey had experienced sexual violence before the age of 16. Many victims of sexual assault, particularly childhood sexual assault, never tell anybody. Fear of not being believed, safety issues, chaotic home lives and an overwhelming sense of responsibility for both the actions of perpetrators and the consequences of disclosure all contribute significantly to the non-reporting of sexual assault.[18]

Many studies have documented correlations between childhood sexual assault and adverse psychological and social outcomes such as:

[18] Fergus, L & Keel, M, 'Adult victim/survivors of childhood sexual assault', *ACSSA Wrap No. 1*, Australian Institute of Family Studies, November 2005, accessed 28 September 2012, www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/wrap/w1.html#five

- increased depression
- anxiety disorders
- antisocial behaviour
- substance abuse
- eating disorders
- suicidal behaviour, and
- post-traumatic stress disorder.

The fundamental damage inflicted by child sexual assault is to the child's developing capacities for trust, intimacy, agency and sexuality and many of the mental health problems of adult life associated with histories of abuse are second-order effects.[19]

A key primary prevention strategy to prevent child sexual assault is school-based education and training to help children recognise situations of risk and to provide children with tools to enable them to report potentially sexually abusive situations.

> …it is a sad reflection of our society when we must teach children to 'protect themselves' when it is the adults' responsibility to protect them.
>
> Laurel House 2012

2.6 National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020

Strengthening families so that children and young people grow up in a safe household free from family violence mutually supports the objectives of the National Plan and the National Framework to Protect Australia's Children (the National Framework). The timing of work in both arenas enables a concerted effort to be made to intervene early in the cycle of inter-generational violence, so that family violence does not exacerbate the immediate incidence of child abuse and neglect, nor contribute to the creation of children who grow into adults who accept this violence.

Support from all levels of government to both the *National Plan* and the National Framework provides an opportunity to better leverage results in both areas.

2.7 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

Tasmania is home to a range of people from very diverse cultural backgrounds. Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities are not a homogenous group.

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[19] Fergus, L & Keel, M, 'Adult victim/survivors of childhood sexual assault'

Some CALD communities may face a range of issues or barriers in understanding the western concepts of family violence and sexual assault, as well as the Tasmanian response to family violence and sexual assault matters.

In recognition of the special needs of the CALD communities, the Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania) Inc. was funded through the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) Respectful Relationships funding in 2012 to deliver the Developing and Maintaining Respectful Relationships education program to high school students (12-16 year olds) from CALD backgrounds.

In addition, a strategy for engaging with CALD communities about violence against women and children will be developed as part of *Taking Action: Tasmania's Primary Prevention Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2012-22.*

2.8 Violence Against Women with Disability

Violence against women with disability remains a key factor that undermines the ability of disabled women to participate as full and equal citizens in Australian society. In Australia, women with disability experience high levels of domestic/family violence and sexual assault, and have high levels of unmet needs in terms of access to domestic/family violence, sexual assault, and related community support services.[20]

A key *National Plan* Reform Project is improving service delivery for women with disability. This project will seek to improve service delivery for women with disability who may have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, family violence and sexual assault.

In addition, two Tasmanian projects aimed at meeting the needs of women with disability have been funded through FaHCSIA *National Plan* funding:

– Latrobe University received a Respectful Relationships Grant in 2009 to trial and evaluate a respectful relationships program for people with an intellectual disability and other cognitive disabilities – *Living Safer Sexual Lives: Respectful Relationships.* Information on the program, delivered in North-West Tasmania is available at www.latrobe.edu.au/arcshs

– Montagu Community Living received a Community Action Grant in 2011 to implement the *Find a Friend, Keep a Friend* project to support women with disability.

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[20] Frohmader, C, WWDA Submission to the UN Analytical Study on Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities, 2012 accessed 26 September 2012 at http://www.wwda.org.au/viol2011.htm

A strategy for engaging with women and children with disability about violence against women and children will be developed as a part of *Taking Action: Tasmania's Primary Prevention Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2012-22.*

2.9 Key Determinants of Family Violence and Sexual Assault

The prevention of family violence and sexual violence involves understanding and intervening against those factors that place people at risk of becoming victims and/or perpetrators of such violence.[21]

2.9.1 Gender Roles and Relations[22]

The most well documented determinants of violence against women and girls from a sociological point of view are gender norms and gender relations. Whether at individual, relationship, community or societal levels there are correlations between how gender is organised and the prevalence of violence against women. A male's alliance with sexist, patriarchal, or sexually hostile attitudes is an important predictor of their choice to use violence against their partners.

Traditional gender-role attitudes which see females viewed as subservient to males. This, whether held by women or men, allows a greater acceptance of violence against women. Male aggression is accepted and normalised. Females are routinely objectified. Sexual double standards influence girls' sexual and intimate involvements, and girls and women are compelled to accommodate male 'needs' and desires. All of these attitudes are believed to contribute to violence against women.

2.9.2 Social Norms and Practices Relating to Violence[23]

Violence supporting attitudes and norms are shaped by a variety of social influences, such as popular media, including exposure to pornography, cultural influences, environments (such as the armed forces and sport), television, film, advertising and electronic games. Violence supporting attitudes may be held by both males and females.

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[21] Harvey, A et al, *Primary prevention of intimate-partner violence and sexual violence: Background paper for WHO expert meeting May 2-3, 2007*, World Health Organisation, accessed12 December 2011 at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/violence/IPV-SV.pdf

[22] Flood, M, *Why violence against women and girls happens, and how to prevent it: A framework and some key strategies*, accessed 12 December 2011 at http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/talkout/profiles/downloads/Flood-gender-violence-youth.pdf

[23] Ibid

Acceptance of violence in the community is a risk factor for intimate partner violence, including sexual violence. Individuals may learn greater tolerance of violence through exposure to violence by their parents, violence amongst their friends or delinquent peers, portrayal of violence in the media, or by being exposed to violence by other community members.

2.9.3 Access to Resources and Systems of Support[24]

Reported rates of intimate partner violence are higher in areas of economic and social disadvantage. Disadvantage may increase the risk because of factors such as crowding, hopelessness, conflict, stress, or a sense of inadequacy.

Social isolation is another risk factor. Rates of intimate partner violence are higher for those who are not involved in societal institutions (such as schools or workplaces) or do not have strong family and friendship networks.

A lack of positive parenting and strong positive role models are also risk factors, as is a lack of community efficacy, that is, community members' willingness to help others or intervene in anti-social or violent activity.

2.9.4 Contributing Factors

While not determinants of family violence or sexual assault the following are contributing factors that increase the incidence and severity of intimate partner violence and sexual violence:

- abuse of alcohol or drugs; and

- mental health issues such as personality and mood disorders such as depression.

Studies highlight strong associations between men's alcohol misuse and the use of physical violence against their female partners, greater levels of severity and injury associated with abuser's drinking, and also a greater likelihood of injury if the abuse victim has been drinking. Evidence suggests that an abuser's frequency of intoxication, binge drinking, or problem drinking is more closely associated with the severity of family violence and the possibility for injury of a victim, than drinking per se.[25]

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[24] Ibid

[25] Braaf, R., Australian Domestic Violence and Family Violence Clearinghouse *Issues Paper 24*, 'Elephant in the room: Responding to alcohol misuse and domestic violence', July 2012, accessed 22 October at www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/IssuesPaper_24.pdf

3. Developing Solutions

In order to achieve a significant reduction in violence against women and their children, the *National Plan* has identified six supporting outcomes:

1. Communities are safe and free from violence
2. Relationships are respectful
3. Indigenous communities are strengthened
4. Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence
5. Justice responses are effective
6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account

In line with the *National Plan* the Tasmanian Government has established four primary objectives for the Tasmanian primary prevention strategy.

National Plan Outcome Areas	Outcome 1 Communities are safe and free from violence	Outcome 2 Relationships are respectful	Outcome 3 Indigenous communities are strengthened	Outcome 4 Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence
Tasmanian Objectives	Foster an intolerance of violence in Tasmania through a range of strategies	Use evidence based best practice programs to build people's capacity to develop respectful relationships	Through the Select Council on Women's Issues develop a national approach to promote the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women	Strengthen collaboration between government and non-government services to ensure services meet the needs of clients

Outcomes 5 and 6 of the *National Plan* require secondary and tertiary responses that should be addressed through the criminal justice system.

3.1 Secondary Prevention

An effective response to family violence and sexual assault must include primary, secondary and tertiary interventions. While secondary intervention actions are not in the scope of this strategy, they are critical to a successful primary prevention strategy. Secondary interventions include those actions that are early interventions aimed at changing existing behaviours or increasing the skills of individuals or groups at risk to address behaviours before they become established patterns.

Through the consultation process for the development of this strategy, secondary prevention actions were highlighted as priority actions. While not included in this strategy, they will become priorities for the broader *Tasmanian Implementation Plan*.

The following secondary interventions require increased research into effective strategies and increased funding.

3.1.1 Working with Victims

In addition to working to overcome trauma with adult and child victims, a range of services work to empower victims to report incidents of sexual assault and/or family violence, leave violent relationships and establish violence free lives for themselves and their children.

An example of a secondary intervention program is the KYSS (Keeping Yourself Safe and Sane) program run in partnership between the Hobart Women's Shelter and SHE (Support, Help, Empowerment). KYSS is a group for women experiencing family violence, focusing on mutual support and shared education. Topics covered may include what constitutes family violence, the cycle of violence, feelings, the impact on children, safety strategies and safe exit planning.

Best practice models of secondary interventions for victims of family violence and sexual assault will be researched as a part of the *Tasmanian Implementation Plan: Second Action Plan 2013-16*.

3.1.2 Working with Perpetrators

Working with perpetrators of family violence and sexual assault to stop their violence is a key secondary prevention strategy.

Family violence perpetrators

Recidivism is high amongst family violence perpetrators and there is a cohort of perpetrators who are resistant to intervention or treatment.[26] High risk perpetrators

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[26] Gondolf, E, *Batterer intervention systems: Issues, outcomes and recommendations*, California, 2002

commonly display a set of interlocking problems relating to mental health, substance abuse and socioeconomic disadvantage that pose barriers to intervention and treatment. Change may be easier to achieve among violent men who are concerned about the impact of arrest and other interventions upon their employment or social status.[27]

Table 4: Family Violence Perpetrator Intervention Programs and Services in Tasmania

Program	Purpose	Delivery	Established
Family Violence Offender Intervention Program (FVOIP)	A court mandated cognitive behavioural program for high risk family violence offenders run on an individual and group basis aimed at reducing reoffending	Community Corrections, Department of Justice – (Safe at Home)	2005 - ongoing
Challenging Abusive Behaviours Program (CAB)	A voluntary group program for men who have been angry, aggressive and abusive towards their partner aimed at teaching men more positive and respectful ways of relating to their partner	Centacare Tasmania	2001 – ongoing
Defendant Health Liaison Service	A voluntary service for family violence defendants in the Magistrates Court that aims to assist them to access appropriate services to address their health and welfare needs thereby enhancing the safety of victims and reducing reoffending	Forensic Mental Health - Department of Health and Human Services – (Safe at Home)	2005 – ongoing

Sexual offenders

Concerns about the number of sexual offenders and high rates of recidivism have led to treatment programs targeted at men as the main means to stop sexual violence. The focus of these programs has been on men who have been found guilty of sexual offences in the criminal justice system, but such men represent a very small proportion of the total number of those committing sexual violence against women and children.[28]

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[27] Salter, M, *ADFVC Issues Paper 23*, 'Managing recidivism amongst high risk violent men', January 2012, accessed 22 October at www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/issues_Papers.htm

[28] Chung, D et al, 'Sexual violence offenders: Prevention and intervention approaches', *ACSSA Issues No. 5*, Australian Institute of Family Studies 2006, accessed 22 October at www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/issue/i5.html

Table 5: Sex Offender Programs in Tasmania

Program	Purpose	Delivery	Established
New Directions Sex Offender Program	A voluntary cognitive behavioural group based program for sex offenders in the Tasmanian Prison Service that aims to facilitate change by assisting prisoners to develop pro-social behaviour	Tasmanian Prison Service, Department of Justice	2005 - ongoing

Best practice models of secondary interventions for sex offenders will be researched as a part of the *Tasmanian Implementation Plan: Second Action Plan 2013-16.*

Child and Adolescent Perpetrators

There is rising concern about the increased number of children and adolescents exhibiting Problem Sexual Behaviour (PSB) and Sexually Abusive Behaviour (SAB) in Tasmania. In addition, concerns were raised through the consultation process for this Strategy at the rising number of male children/adolescents modelling their behaviour on violent fathers and perpetrating violence on their mothers.

In 2012, the Sexual Assault Support Service was successful in gaining a grant from FaHCSIA to run a conference to explore practice responses to children and young people displaying PBS and SAB. The learnings from the conference will help inform future practice in this area.

Best practice models of secondary interventions for child and adolescent perpetrators of family and sexual violence will be researched as part of the *Tasmanian Implementation Plan: Second Action Plan 2013-16.*

4. Tasmania's Actions

Objective 1:   Foster an intolerance of violence in Tasmania through a range of strategies

Preventing family violence (FV) and sexual assault (SA) involves intervening against those factors that place people at risk of becoming victims and perpetrators of such violence. The actions outlined in this objective aim to address the following key determinants of family violence and sexual assault:

- social norms and practices relating to violence;

- gender roles and relations; and

- access to resources and systems of support

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
1.1	Develop and implement social marketing campaigns aimed at changing individuals' knowledge, attitudes and social norms around (a) family violence and (b) sexual assault	To be confirmed	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children – The Line*	A change in community attitudes to family violence and sexual assault measurable through: • *National Community Attitudes Survey* • *National Personal Safety Survey*	FV + SA
1.2	Work with local government to develop policy and practice that	Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children*	Policy and practice initiatives responding to violence against	FV + SA

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
	facilitate local government as a community leader in preventing violence against women and children		*A Healthy Tasmania: Setting new directions for health and wellbeing* *Population Health Strategic Directions: 2011-2014*	women and children taken up by local government	
1.3	Support and promote public awareness raising events and campaigns such as the *National Plan's The Line* and *White Ribbon* (WR) Encourage WR Ambassadors to be prominent in and by their comments throughout the year and not just 25 November each year	Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), Department of Justice (DOJ), DHHS, Department of Police and Emergency Management (DPEM), Department of Education (DOE), Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts (DEDTA) Non-government sector	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	Increased use of *The Line* materials Increased number of, and participation in, White Ribbon events	FV + SA
1.4	Strengthen the WR Program in Tasmania by recruiting a diverse group of Ambassadors to promote the WR message through schools, workplaces, sporting clubs and cultural organisations	DHHS, DPEM, DPAC, DOJ, DOE, DEDTA Sporting codes, Unions Tasmania, Zonta, Rotary, Lions and Apex Clubs, Rural Youth Clubs	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children*	Increased number of WR Ambassadors Increased participation in WR events Ongoing promotion of WR	FV + SA

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
1.5	Support and promote bystander programs that are aimed at empowering members of the community to confront, interrupt or prevent violence	To be determined	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	A change in community attitudes to family violence and sexual assault measurable through: *National Community Attitudes Survey* *National Personal Safety Survey*	FV + SA
1.6	Develop a Safety Audit for Public Places and Public Events toolkit	DPAC, DPEM, DEDTA Sexual Assault Services Local Government Sporting codes	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	Increased sense of personal safety in public settings measurable through: *National Community Attitudes Survey* *National Personal Safety Survey*	FV + SA
1.7	Promote gender equality so that all women and girls are supported to participate fully and equally in all aspects of society	DPAC – Community Development Division (CDD)	*Tasmanian Women's Plan 2013-18* *National Framework for Gender Equality [Select Council on Women's Issues]*	Increased participation of women and girls in all aspects of society measurable through the evaluation of the *Tasmanian Women's Plan 2013-18* and the National Framework for Gender Equality	FV + SA
1.8	Continue to promote Australian Sports Commission and sporting	DEDTA – Sport and Recreation Tasmania	*Play by the Rules* *AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy*	Increased recognition of equality and respect for women and girls	FV + SA

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
	codes initiatives that portray equality and respect in sport		*Ethics in Sport Framework [Tasmania]*	in sport	
1.9	Introduce family violence provisions in workplace agreements and make the promotion of anti-violence a workplace issue	DPAC – State Service Management Office (SSMO) Tasmanian unions Tasmanian employers	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	Increased family violence provisions in workplace awards and instruments Increased education of workers through workplace initiatives	FV
1.10	Develop professional development opportunities for a range of workers including, but not limited to: medical, allied health, social work, education professionals, including students about to enter those professions, Centrelink staff and Child Support Officers, to educate them on the dynamics of family violence and sexual assault to assist in early identification of women and children at risk of violence	To be determined	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	Number of professional development opportunities offered	FV + SA
1.11	Promote ethical reporting of family violence (including all categories of family violence) and sexual assault by the Tasmania media	To be determined	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	Increased ethical reporting by the Tasmania media	FV + SA

Actions	Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
Encourage the media to use responsible and sensitive reporting along with using the media in an educative and creative manner ie court reports, media challenging, pathways from violence stories				

* Delivery - The actions outlined in this section have the most relevant government agency/s to deliver each action identified. Many of the strategies will also require collaboration with non-government organisations.

Supporting evidence of the efficacy of social marketing campaigns

Campaigns that use a social marketing framework apply the principles of commercial marketing to develop and adapt communications strategies to effect behavioural and social change. The social marketing framework seeks to develop persuasive messages by understanding the behaviour of the intended audience and involving them in program development, rather than focussing primarily on the dissemination of information. This framework is increasingly being utilised to address men's social norms and behaviour, including to family violence and sexual violence. Communications strategies based on a social marketing framework are more likely to be effective in changing individuals' knowledge, attitudes and social norms.[29]

Supporting evidence of the efficacy of female specific strategies

Women's low socioeconomic status in society is closely linked with high rates of family violence and sexual violence in a variety of ways. Fostering gender equality is therefore an integral part of the prevention of family violence and sexual violence. Gender equality should be mainstreamed into all policy development processes.[30]

Ethical media reporting of family violence and sexual assault

Family and intimate partner violence is amongst the most common crime, yet the least reported. When family violence or sexual assault is reported it is vital that the language used does not trivialise these violent crimes.

The EVAs Media Awards honour journalists for excellence in the reporting of violence against women in all forms of media. Information on responsible reporting guidelines for journalists can be found at www.evas.org.au

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[29] Harvey, A et al, 2007, *Primary prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence*, pp.16-17

[30] Ibid, pp.22

Objective 2:   Use evidence based best practice programs to build people's capacity to develop respectful relationships

Through a range of well documented research we know that there is supporting evidence for the efficacy of respectful relationships education programs for children and young people. These programs assist children and young people to develop the problem-solving, emotional management, and social skills that form the basis of their relationships later in life. They also positively assist children form views on gender roles and the acceptability of aggression and violence.

We also know that children and young people learn from the people around them, so that positive parenting and home environments free from violence are crucial to the development of positive skills that facilitate pro-social behaviour and healthy relationships.

The actions outlined in this objective aim to promote attitudes and behaviours that will have a long-term effect on preventing family violence and sexual assault.

Actions	Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
2.1 Encourage the delivery of respectful relationships education in all Tasmanian schools from K-12 as part of the Tasmanian curriculum, which is inclusive of children and young people with disability	DOE DHHS Tasmanian Early Years Foundation (TEYF) support	*Relationships and sexuality education in Tasmanian government schools strategy 2012-2014* *The Tasmanian Curriculum: Health and Wellbeing K-10 syllabus* *Australian Curriculum-Phase 3 - Health and Physical Education* *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation*	Increased understanding of respectful relationships by K-12 students measured through curriculum performance criteria and indicators	FV + SA

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
			Plan) *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children*		
2.2	Encourage the delivery of sexual and reproductive health programs as part of the Tasmanian curriculum, which inclusive of children and young people with disability	DOE DHHS TEYF support	*Relationships and sexuality education in Tasmanian government schools strategy 2012-2014*	Increased understanding of sexual and reproductive health of students measured through curriculum performance criteria and indicators	FV + SA
2.3	Encourage the delivery of best practice age appropriate family violence and sexual assault specific programs in all Tasmanian schools along with age appropriate versions of protective behaviours, which is inclusive of children and young people with disability	DOE Sexual assault services Family violence services Sexual Health Services Family Planning Youth Health Services New Parent and Infant Network Australia TEYF support	*Relationships and sexuality education in Tasmanian government schools strategy 2012-2014*	Implementation of specific programs as determined by schools and supported by DOE Curriculum Unit	FV + SA

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
2.4	Encourage all sporting codes to promote respectful relationships	DEDTA – Sport and Recreation Tasmania	*Play by the Rules Program*	Increased understanding of respectful relationships by sports people	FV + SA
2.5	Encourage the delivery of cyber safety programs to all schools, Tasmanian Polytechnic, University of Tasmania, LINCs and sporting codes. Children and young people with disability should be included in these programs	DOE	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)* *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children*	Implementation of specific programs as determined by schools and supported by DOE Curriculum Unit	SA
2.6	Make parenting programs available in all Child and Family Centres in Tasmania. Programs should encourage participation by both parents and should also educate on child trauma	DHHS / DOE TEYF support	*Child and Family Centres* *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children*	Increased number of, and participation in, parenting programs Parental satisfaction with programs	FV + SA
2.7	Encourage positive relationship education for intimate partners	DHHS	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	Increased number of partners participating in positive relationship education	FV + SA
2.8	Encourage home visitation to new parents to facilitate the provision of	DHHS – Child Health and	*A Healthy Tasmania: Setting new directions for health and wellbeing*	Increased home visitations by	FV + SA

Actions	Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
	information to enhance parenting skills and the development of healthy relationships	Parenting Services TEYF support	*National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children*	Child and Family Health Nurses	
2.9	Address the contributing factors that increase the incidence and severity of family violence and sexual assault: – abuse of alcohol or drugs; – mental health issues such as personality and mood disorders and depression; and – gambling	DHHS Australian Department of Health and Ageing DHHS Gambling Support Program	*A Healthy Tasmania: Setting new directions for health and wellbeing* *Everybody's Business: A Tasmanian Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Framework* *Tasmanian Alcohol Action Framework 2010-2015* *National Drug Strategy 2010-15* *National Binge Drinking Strategy* *National Mental Health Policy*	Where possible, evaluation of outcomes achieved by Australian and Tasmanian Government policies	FV + SA
2.10	Address the social and economic factors that contribute to family violence: – poverty; – social isolation; – low educational attainment; – unemployment; and	DPAC, DHHS, DOE	*A Social Inclusion Strategy for Tasmania* *Department of Education Strategic Plan 2012-15* *Tasmanian Adult Literacy Action Plan 2010-15*	Improvement in levels of: – poverty; – social isolation; – low educational attainment; – unemployment; and – homelessness	FV + SA

Actions	Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
– homelessness		*Tasmanian Homelessness Plan 2010-2013: Coming in from the cold*	experienced by Tasmanians measurable by an evaluation of *A Social Inclusion Strategy for Tasmania*	

* Delivery - The actions outlined in this section have the most relevant government agency/s to deliver each action identified. Many of the strategies will also require collaboration with non-government organisations.

Supporting evidence of the efficacy of education programs for children and young people

One of the most important populations among whom violence prevention efforts have been implemented is children and young people, and this often takes place in schools. There is growing momentum in schools-based violence prevention in Australia for the following reasons:

- schools have distinct advantages as sites of violence prevention education, as they provide a captive audience, in the charge of professionals, in groups and scheduled sessions, in institutions focused on education;

- experience and resources in, and knowledge of, schools-based violence prevention is relatively well developed;

- schools can facilitate partnerships between young people, parents, teachers and others, increasing investment and effectiveness;

- school peers can play vital, positive roles in discouraging young people's involvement in violence; and

- schools-based prevention education has been shown to work.

Evaluations of school-based strategies show that, if done well, initiatives targeted at young people can produce lasting change in attitudes and behaviours.[31]

School-based interventions with young children, particularly around child sexual abuse, have been found to empower children to protect themselves and/or report abuse incidents.[32]

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[31] Flood, M, *Advancing the field: best practice in schools-based violence prevention*. Partners in Prevention Forum – Domestic Violence Resource Centre, Melbourne, 2009

Supporting evidence of the efficacy of parenting programs

Strong evidence exists to support the effectiveness of home visits and parent training programs in preventing child abuse/maltreatment. These strategies may be effective in reducing family violence and sexual violence by reducing child abuse/maltreatment and the cognitive, social and behavioural consequences of child maltreatment that affect risk. In early childhood children learn problem-solving, emotional management, and the social skills that form the basis of their relationships later in life, and it is also the time when children form views on gender roles, relationships and the acceptability of aggression and violence. Children learn much of this from the people around them, children see, children do, so that positive parenting and home environments free from family violence are crucial to the development of positive skills that facilitate pro-social behaviour and healthy relationships.[33]

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[32] Harvey, A et al, 2007, *Primary prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence,* pp.11-13

[33] Ibid pp.11-13

Objective 3:   Through the Select Council on Women's Issues develop a national approach to promote the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

Aboriginal women often hold informal positions of leadership in their communities. Evidence shows that involving Aboriginal women in needed change and development is more likely to lead to success and the approach taken under the *National Plan* is to strengthen Aboriginal women in their communities and in representative bodies and the broader society.

The Tasmanian Government, through the Community Development Division, DPAC, will work with the Australian Government to promote the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island women.

Additional actions will be added to this objective as the work of the Select Council on Women's Issues progresses.

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
3.1	Encourage all workers in family violence and sexual assault services to undertake cultural competency training	Whole-of-Government Non-government service providers	*National Approach to Promote the Leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women [Select Council on Women's Issues]*	The number of workers who have successfully participated in cultural competency training	FV + SA
3.2	Work with the Select Council on Women's Issues to progress a range of leadership initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women	DPAC – Community Development Division	*National Approach to Promote the Leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women [Select Council on Women's Issues]* *Indigenous Family Safety Agenda*	An increase in educational and leadership opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women	FV + SA

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
3.3	Enhance opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to undertake formal training and gain qualifications in working with victims of family violence and sexual abuse	DPAC – Community Development Division	*National Approach to Promote the Leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women [Select Council on Women's Issues]* *Indigenous Family Safety Agenda*	Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who gain appropriate qualifications	FV + SA
3.4	Increase opportunities for appropriately qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to gain employment in services responding to the needs of people who have experienced family or sexual violence	Whole-of-Government Non-government service providers	*National Approach to Promote the Leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women [Select Council on Women's Issues]* *Indigenous Family Safety Agenda*	Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who gain employment in family violence or sexual assault services	FV + SA

* Delivery - The actions outlined in this section have the most relevant government agency/s to deliver each action identified. Many of the strategies will also require collaboration with non-government organisations.

Objective 4:   Strengthen collaboration between government and non-government services to ensure services meet the needs of clients

The *National Plan* stresses the need for more joined up services and levels of collaboration between government and non-government service providers to achieve maximum positive outcomes for victims of family violence and their children and sexual assault victims.

Tasmania has a range of government and non-government service providers working hard to provide counselling, support, and other assistance to victims of family violence and their children and sexual assault victims. However, there are limited forums and opportunities for services to share information, training opportunities and to explore innovative methods of service delivery.

The major aim of the actions in this objective is to enhance collaboration between the government and non-government family violence and sexual assault service providers to achieve the best outcomes for all clients.

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
4.1	Develop an overarching governance structure for the development of primary prevention activities for family violence and sexual assault in Tasmania	National Plan Interdepartmental Advisory Committee Tasmanian Implementation Plan Consultative Group	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	Increased delivery of coordinated primary prevention activity in Tasmania	FV + SA
4.2	Develop communication mechanisms that will ensure all service providers and the wider community are kept informed of primary prevention activities and progress	DPAC – Community Development Division Tasmanian Implementation Plan IDC and Consultative Group	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	Development and subscription to a primary prevention E-List	FV + SA
4.3	Encourage partnerships between	DHHS	*National Plan to Reduce Violence*	Increased number of	FV + SA

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
	service providers when applying for grant funding for primary prevention activity	Tasmanian Implementation Plan IDC and Consultative Group	*Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	'partnership' grant applications	
4.4	Encourage a partnership between the Tasmanian Government and University of Tasmania (UTAS) to undertake and inform research priorities in family violence and sexual assault fields	DPAC, DHHS, DOJ, DPEM, UTAS *National Plan* - National Centre of Excellence – National Research Agenda	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	Number of research activities undertaken over period of strategy	FV + SA
4.5	Facilitate information sharing between service providers to showcase successful initiatives and build the evidence base of best practice primary prevention interventions – including Australian Government information	DPAC – Community Development Division Tasmanian Implementation Plan IDC and Consultative Group	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (includes Tasmanian Implementation Plan)*	Development of an electronic information sharing forum for service providers Number of family violence and sexual assault service providers participating in forums	FV + SA
4.6	Encourage the use of qualified interpreters when assisting culturally and linguistically diverse clients	Whole-of-Government Family violence and sexual assault service providers	*Better Access to Government Services for Former Humanitarian Entrants*	Percentage of CALD clients receiving the support of qualified interpreters when needed	FV + SA
4.7	Increase the cultural competency of service provider staff (Government	Whole-of-Government	*Better Access to Government Services for*	Satisfaction of CALD clients with	FV + SA

Actions		Delivery*	Current Tasmanian or Australian Government policies which respond to this strategy	Indicators of change	FV / SA Strategy
	and non-government)		*Former Humanitarian Entrants*	the services they receive	
4.8	Encourage recognition and appropriate responses to the special needs of people with disability in the design of service delivery and premises	Whole-of-Government DHHS Family violence and sexual assault service providers	*Tasmanian Disability Framework for Action* *National Disability Strategy 2010-2020* *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children*	Outcomes of *National Plan Reform Project on Improving Service Delivery for Women with Disabilities*	FV + SA
4.9	Build evaluation of programs as a core principle in grant funding	Australian and Tasmanian Government grant bodies	*National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children*	Number of evaluated programs appearing on proposed best practice website	FV + SA

* Delivery - The actions outlined in this section have also had the most relevant government agency/s to deliver each action identified. Many of the strategies will also require collaboration with non-government organisations.

5. Reporting Framework

Taking Action: Tasmania's Primary Prevention Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2012-22 is a ten year strategy with the long-term goal of significantly reducing violence against women and their children in Tasmania. Overall reporting on the effectiveness of *Taking Action* will be undertaken at the end of 2022.

Short-term progress will be reported through:

- Quarterly progress reports to the National Plan Interdepartmental Advisory Committee and the Tasmanian Implementation Plan Consultative Group commencing December 2013.

- Annual progress reports that will be incorporated in the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children: Tasmanian Implementation Plan* report to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) through the Select Council of Women's Issues.

Long-term Measures of Success

Objective	Indicator / Measure of Success	Data Source
Foster an intolerance of violence in Tasmania through a range of strategies	Increased intolerance of violence against women and children	National Community Attitudes Survey
Use evidence based best practice programs to build people's capacity to develop respectful relationships	Improved knowledge, skills, and behaviour of respectful relationships by young people	National Community Attitudes Survey
Through the Select Council on Women's Issues develop a national approach to promote the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women	Increased proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women in formal and informal leadership positions	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Surveys
Strengthen collaboration between government and non-government services to ensure services meet the needs of clients	Increased responsiveness of services to victims of family violence and sexual assault	Personal Safety Survey

6. Acronyms

ACSSA	Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault
ADFVC	Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse
CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
DEDTA	Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DOE	Department of Education
DOJ	Department of Justice
DPAC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
DPEM	Department of Police and Emergency Management
E-List	Electronic Mailing List
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
FV	Family Violence
IDC	Interdepartmental Advisory Committee
NCE	National Centre of Excellence
PSB	Problem Sexual Behaviour
SA	Sexual assault
SAB	Sexually Abusive Behaviour
TEYF	Tasmanian Early Years Foundation
UTAS	University of Tasmania
WR	White Ribbon

7. Government Strategies List

Links to the Australian and Tasmanian Government policies and strategies listed in this
document:

AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy
www.afl.com.au/respect%20%20responsibility/tabid/16781/default.aspx

Australian Curriculum
www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/

Child and Family Centres
www.education.tas.gov.au/parents_carers/early_years/Programs-and-Initiatives/Pages/Child-and-Family-Centres.aspx

Department of Education Strategic Plan 2012-15
www.education.tas.gov.au/documentcentre/Documents/DoE-Strategic-Plan-2012-2015.pdf

Ethics in Sport Framework [Tasmania] – to be released 2013

Everybody's Business: A Tasmanian Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Promotion, Prevention and Early
Intervention Framework – final strategy not yet released

A Healthy Tasmania: Setting new directions for health and wellbeing
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/about_the_department/our_plans_and_strategies/a_healthy_tasmania

Indigenous Family Safety Agenda
www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/indigenous-australians/programs-services/families-children/indigenous-family-safety

National Binge Drinking Strategy
www.alcohol.gov.au/internet/alcohol/publishing.nsf/Content/cli

National Drug Strategy 2010-15
www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/

National Framework for Gender Equality [Select Council on Women's Issues] – to be released 2013

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020
www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/publications-articles/protecting-children-is-everyones-business

National Mental Health Policy
www.health.gov.au/internet/main/Publishing.nsf/Content/mental-pubs-n-pol08

National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-22
www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/women/programs-services/reducing-violence/the-national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children

Play by the Rules
www.playbytherules.net.au/

Population Health Strategic Directions: 2011-2014 – internal document only

Relationships and sexuality education in Tasmanian government schools strategy 2012-2014
www.education.tas.gov.au/documentcentre/Documents/Relationships-and-Sexuality-Education-in-Tasmanian-Government-Schools.pdf

Safe at Home: Tasmania's Criminal Justice Response to Family Violence
http://www.safeathome.tas.gov.au/

A Social Inclusion Strategy for Tasmania
www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/siu/strategy/strategy

Tasmanian Adult Literacy Action Plan 2010-15
www.education.tas.gov.au/documentcentre/Documents/Tasmanian-Adult-Literacy-Action-Plan.pdf

Tasmanian Alcohol Action Framework 2010-2015
www.drugstrategy.dhhs.tas.gov.au/alcohol

Tasmanian Homelessness Plan 2010-2013: Coming in from the cold
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/tashomelessnessplan

Tasmanian Women's Plan 2013-18 - to be released 2013

The Tasmanian Curriculum: Health and Wellbeing K-10 syllabus
www.education.tas.gov.au/documentcentre/Documents/Tas-Curriculum-K-10-Health-and-Wellbeing-Syllabus-and-Support.pdf

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Background paper for WHO expert meeting May 2-3, 2007*, World Health
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Expert paper prepared for the UN Expert Group Meeting, Prevention of violence against
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APPENDIX 1

Primary prevention strategies for family violence and sexual assault for which some evidence is available:[34]

Strategy	Family Violence	Sexual Assault
During infancy, childhood and early adolescence		
Interventions for children and adolescents subjected to child abuse and/or exposed to family violence	☐	?
School-based training to help children recognise and avoid potentially sexually abusive situations	?	☐
During adolescence and early adulthood		
School-based programs to prevent dating violence	●	N/A
Sexual violence prevention programs for school and college populations	N/A	?
Rape awareness and knowledge programs for school and college populations	N/A	X
Education (as opposed to skills training) on self-defence strategies for school and college populations	N/A	**X**
Confrontational rape prevention programs	N/A	**XX**
During adulthood		
Empowerment and participatory approaches for addressing gender inequality: gender equality training	☐	?
Empowerment and participatory approaches for addressing gender inequality: communication and relationships skills training	☐	?
Home visitation programs with family violence component	?	?
All life stages		
Reduce access to and harmful use of alcohol [and drugs]	☐	?
Change social and cultural gender norms through the use of social norms theory	?	☐
Change social and cultural gender norms through media awareness campaigns	☐	?
Change social and cultural gender norms through working with men and boys	☐	?

- ●   Effective – one or more programs demonstrated to be effective – supported by multiple well-designed studies showing prevention of perpetration and/or experience of family violence or sexual assault
- ☐   Emerging evidence of effectiveness - one or more programs for which evidence is emerging – one well-designed study showing prevention or studies showing positive changes in knowledge, attitudes and beliefs related to family violence and sexual assault
- ?   Effectiveness unclear – one or more programs with insufficient or mixed evidence
- X   Emerging evidence of ineffectiveness – lack of prevention and no changes in knowledge, attitudes and beliefs related to family violence and sexual assault
- **X**   Ineffective – programs where multiple studies have shown lack of prevention
- **XX**   Probably harmful – at least one well-designed study showing an increase in perpetration
- N/A   Not applicable

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[34] World Health Organisation, *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: Taking action and generating evidence*, p.40

APPENDIX 2

Schematic outlining the implementation of the *National Plan* from Commonwealth to state level

National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children – 12 Year Plan

Four 3-year Action Plans

1. Building Strong Foundations 2010-2013	2. Moving Ahead 2013-2016	3. Promising Results 2016-2019	4. Turning the Corner 2019-2022

First Action Plan Implementation Plan (Commonwealth)

Tasmanian Implementation Plan (Jurisdictional Plans)

Governance National Plan Interdepartmental Advisory Committee

Consultation/Information Dissemination Tasmanian Implementation Plan Consultative Group

Communities are safe and free from violence	Relationships are respectful	Indigenous communities are strengthened	Services meet the needs of women and children	Justice responses are effective	Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account

Taking Action: Tasmania's Primary Prevention Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2012-2022

Secondary and tertiary responses Existing Government and non-government programs