



SAFE HOMES FAMILIES COMMUNITIES

Tasmania's action plan for family
and sexual violence 2019-2022



Tasmanian
Government

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Seeking help

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

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

In an emergency always call 000.

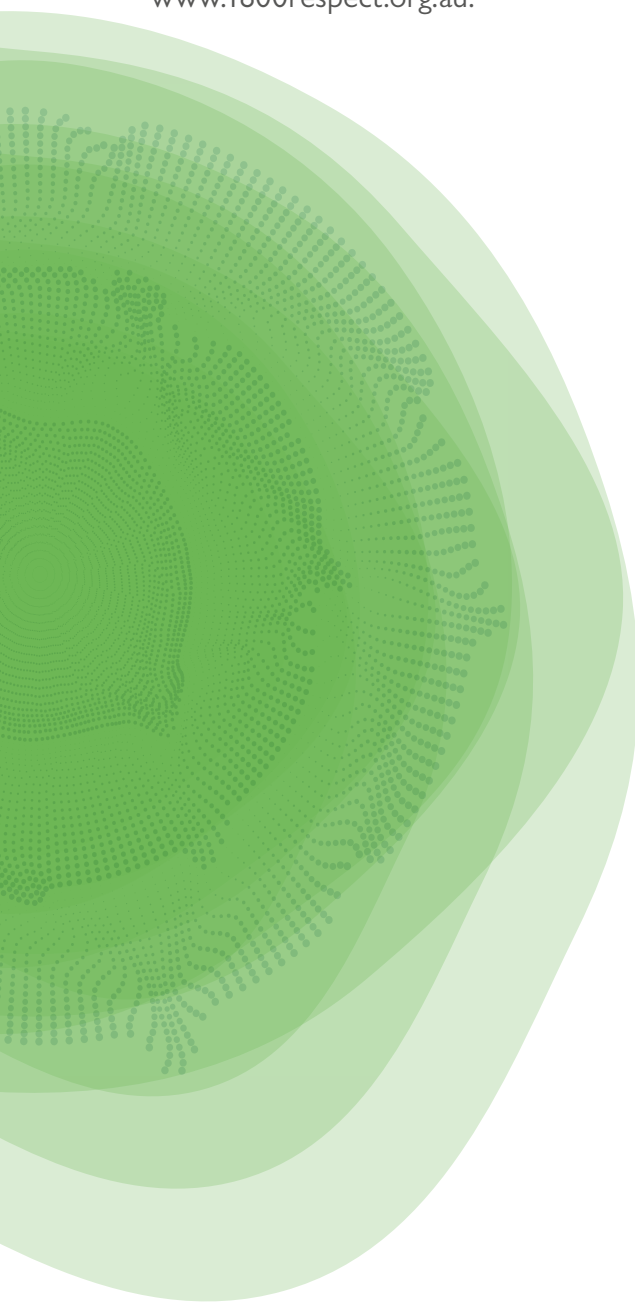
For further information visit www.1800respect.org.au.

Acknowledgement of Tasmanian Aboriginal people

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges and pays respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land. We acknowledge elders, past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the devastating impacts of family violence in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

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



Walk with me

The question that yearns and burns

Endlessly and timelessly in the mist of the chatter of my mind ...

Am I not enough?

Am I good enough?

What did I do to make someone, who says they love

Harm, hurt and belittle me with an invisible glove

There are no bruises for people to see

To see the pain hidden inside me

To see the daily battle to cope for a while

To wear the mask of a broken smile

Who will I tell and where will I go?

Who will believe me or even want to know?

*Then when I have the courage to make the change there's a mind scramble
of so many things to organise and arrange*

Where will I live and where will I go?

Who will believe me that I don't know?

*Maybe there are others who will listen with an open heart and help me and
support me to not fall totally apart*

What will be the repercussions if I leave?

This state of severe numbing and trepidation

Is the other bruising internally of real retaliation?

Make a safe place for me to speak

Navigate me through this as my thoughts are muddled and weak

Stand with me on this journey to have the courage to make the ultimate change

And stay with me and heal my scars

In the months and years ahead

*I can do this, but I need a helping hand because through the mine field of the
journey it's with others I need to stand*

Remove the shame

Remove the stigma and judgement

And slowly I will, as a survivor, be there with open arms to walk with others

*This poem was shared at the Hobart Roundtable Consultation to inform development of this
Action Plan. The author has chosen to be anonymous. We thank them for their generosity.*



Premier's message

Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022 represents the next stage of my Government's long-term commitment to preventing and responding to family violence and our new response to sexual violence.

We continue to show strong leadership and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of people affected by family and sexual violence, particularly women and children.

Like family violence, we know that sexual violence can have significant and profound impacts on individuals, families and communities. It also requires a whole-of-government response that includes primary prevention, early intervention, and trauma-informed, evidence-based support for victim-survivors and perpetrators.

We have made good progress since the release of our nation-leading *Safe Homes, Safe Families: Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan 2015-2020* (Safe Homes, Safe Families) in August 2015. However, there is more work to be done.

Our new Action Plan is the culmination of a comprehensive service system review, which included consultation with hundreds of people with lived experience and frontline workers from government and non-government services that prevent and respond to family and sexual violence.



Change will only happen when we all take responsibility. Everyone has a role to play in eliminating family and sexual violence. It requires a unified effort.

Our new Action Plan looks to embed the crisis and support services introduced under Safe Homes, Safe Families. We will continue to improve the service system for adults and children who experience family and sexual violence, with an increased focus on service integration and building the capacity of specialist and mainstream workforces to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence.

We are significantly strengthening our primary prevention response to drive the long-term change needed to end violence and make Tasmania safer. Preventing violence from happening in the first place is the single most effective way to eliminate family and sexual violence.

We will continue to listen to the community, particularly people with lived experience of family and sexual violence, to improve the service systems responses for those who need it most.

Thank you to all the people with lived experience, members of the Family Violence Consultative Group, community and private sector organisations, Tasmanian Government agencies and the wider community for your insights and contributions in developing this Action Plan.

I am proud to lead a Government that is working with the community to drive real change. Together we can create a Tasmania free from family and sexual violence.

Will Hodgman MP
Premier

Vision

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

Our commitment

We will:

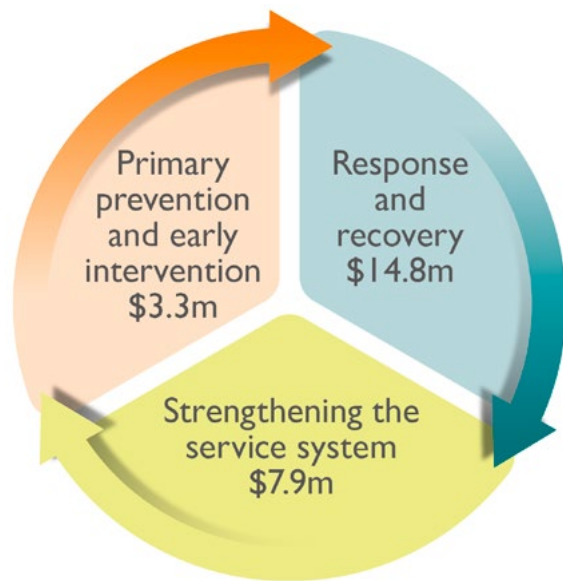
- create a safer Tasmania where all Tasmanians are equal and respected;
- continue to work together and take action to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence;
- build on initiatives being delivered through individual portfolios to deliver a holistic response;
- continue to listen to stakeholders, the community and people with lived experience of violence;
- strengthen our efforts to change the attitudes, behaviours and power imbalances that lead to violence;
- work with communities to drive generational change;
- continue to support families affected by violence;
- continue to hold perpetrators to account and help them to change their violent behaviours;
- ensure the service system is responsive, integrated and innovative;
- empower victim-survivors and provide additional support for children affected by family and sexual violence;
- be flexible, with our actions informed by evidence and best practice; and
- monitor, evaluate and report on our efforts.

Snapshot

This Action Plan represents the next stage of the Government's long-term commitment to the Tasmanian community.

We will keep listening, learning and acting to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence in Tasmania.

Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022 invests \$26 million over three years for 40 actions to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence in Tasmania, under three priority areas:



Actions build on efforts to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence delivered through Safe at Home and community-based specialist family and sexual violence services funded by the Tasmanian Government. Funding for actions is additional to the \$1.5 million for Safe at Home services and \$450,000 for Project O, which were included in the 2018-19 State Budget.

Key areas of new activity and investment include:

- a new focus on sexual violence;
- establishing a new Our Watch Primary Prevention Officer in Tasmania;
- a new Problem Sexual Behaviours and Sexually Abusive Behaviours Program for children and young people;
- working with the eSafety Commissioner to respond to technology-facilitated abuse;
- developing a new Tasmanian family and sexual violence website;
- providing additional counselling services for children and young people;
- introducing standardised risk assessment processes;
- supporting national efforts to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence; and
- integrating family and sexual violence services across the service system.

Priorities for new actions were identified through the Family Violence Service System Review (the Review), which included stakeholder and community consultation.

Actions to address sexual violence were informed by comprehensive research; examination of the Tasmanian sexual violence service system; analysis of best-practice systems operating in other jurisdictions; and targeted consultation with key stakeholders.

This Action Plan combines the Government's response to family and sexual violence. While sexual violence often intersects with family violence, it also requires separate and additional responses, which is reflected in the actions.

Priority areas



Primary prevention and early intervention

Primary prevention aims to stop violence before it occurs by addressing the attitudes and behaviours that lead to violence.

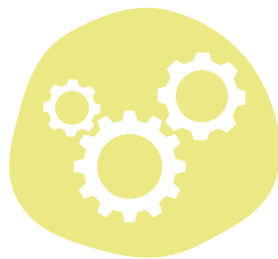
Early intervention aims to reduce the likelihood of development and/or escalation of violent behaviours to the point where they are difficult to reverse.



Response and recovery

Crisis responses and recovery supports aim to help victim-survivors to access services, feel safe, achieve justice and rebuild their lives.

Response and recovery actions also aim to hold perpetrators to account, through criminal and civil processes, and change their offending behaviour through rehabilitative support.



Strengthening the service system

The service system will be strengthened by building on current efforts to become more effective, responsive, accessible and integrated.

Actions will drive improved alignment of the criminal justice and community-based support service responses to family and sexual violence; and increase workforce capacity and capability to respond to family and sexual violence.

Summary of actions



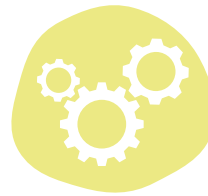
Primary prevention and early intervention

1. Membership of Our Watch
2. Establish an Our Watch Primary Prevention Officer in Tasmania
3. Embed Respectful Relationship education in Tasmanian Government schools
4. Support the successful National Campaign, *Stop It At The Start*
5. Support implementation of the new National Sexual Violence Campaign
6. Continue to ensure that gender equality and respect are at the centre of all Tasmanian State Service workplaces
7. Develop a family and sexual violence website
8. Work with the eSafety Commissioner to deliver education and training in response to technology-facilitated abuse
9. Deliver a Problem Sexual Behaviours and Sexually Abusive Behaviours program for children and young people
10. Support Tasmanian Aboriginal communities to deliver targeted primary prevention and early intervention programs and to improve service delivery for Aboriginal people affected by family and sexual violence
11. Trial the Step Up adolescent intervention program
12. Strengthen the Defendant Health Liaison Service to provide early intervention to offenders
13. Deliver the Men's Referral Service



Response and recovery

14. Deliver Safe Choices
15. Support women with disability through the Local Support Coordinator role in Safe Choices
16. Support children and their families through the Safe Homes, Safe Families Support Team
17. Support Aboriginal families through the Aboriginal Family Safety Workers in Child and Family Centres
18. Provide increased counselling services for children and young people experiencing family violence
19. Provide counselling services for adults experiencing family violence
20. Invest in crisis accommodation through the *Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-2023*
21. Deliver the Rapid Rehousing program for people experiencing family violence
22. Deliver the Keeping Women Safe In Their Homes program
23. Provide legal assistance to people experiencing family violence
24. Deliver perpetrator programs for low, medium and high-risk perpetrators
25. Introduce the ability to require mandated behaviour change program participation as part of a Family Violence Order
26. Extend forensic medical examinations for adult victim-survivors of family and sexual violence to a statewide service



Strengthening the service system

27. Strengthen the Safe Families Coordination Unit
28. Trial electronic monitoring of high-risk family violence offenders, with opt-in available for victim-survivors
29. Strengthen specialist police prosecution services
30. Implement legislative reform to strengthen legal responses to family and sexual violence
31. Improve data collection and reporting
32. Membership of Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety
33. Strengthen mechanisms for schools to respond to technology-facilitated abuse including image-based abuse
34. Roll out mobile phone data extraction devices to collect evidence of technology-facilitated abuse
35. Centralise management of family and sexual violence services within the Department of Communities Tasmania
36. Introduce standardised risk assessment processes across government and non-government family and sexual violence services
37. Develop and deliver training across identified Tasmanian Government services to respond to family and sexual violence
38. Establish a Family Violence Liaison Officer in the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line
39. Undertake a feasibility study for a disclosure scheme in Tasmania
40. Review the regional sexual assault protocols

Family and sexual violence

What is family violence?

In Tasmania, family violence refers to violent, abusive or controlling behaviour by a person against their current or former intimate partner.

The definition in the *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas)¹ lists a range of violent behaviours including:

- assault, including sexual assault;
- threats, coercion, intimidation or verbal abuse;
- abduction;
- stalking; or
- an attempt to do any of those things.

Family violence is recognised as more than physical violence and also includes:

- economic abuse;
- emotional abuse or intimidation;
- breaching orders relating to family violence; and
- property damage.

What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence includes a wide range of unwanted, non-consensual, traumatic and harmful sexual behaviours, including:

- sexual harassment;
- technology-facilitated abuse;
- unwanted kissing;
- sexual touching;
- coercion;
- sexual assault including rape; and
- child sexual abuse.

The World Health Organisation defines sexual violence as:

*“any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting.”*²

Sexual acts that constitute a criminal offence in Tasmania, such as rape and sexual assault, are included in the *Tasmanian Criminal Code Act 1924* (Tas) and the *Police Offences Act 1935* (Tas)³.

Sexual violence is highly prevalent, yet forms of sexual violence, such as child sexual abuse, sexual assault and sexual exploitation remain some of the most under-reported of serious offences.

Non-partner sexual violence is perpetrated by people such as strangers, acquaintances, friends, colleagues, peers, teachers, neighbours and family members.

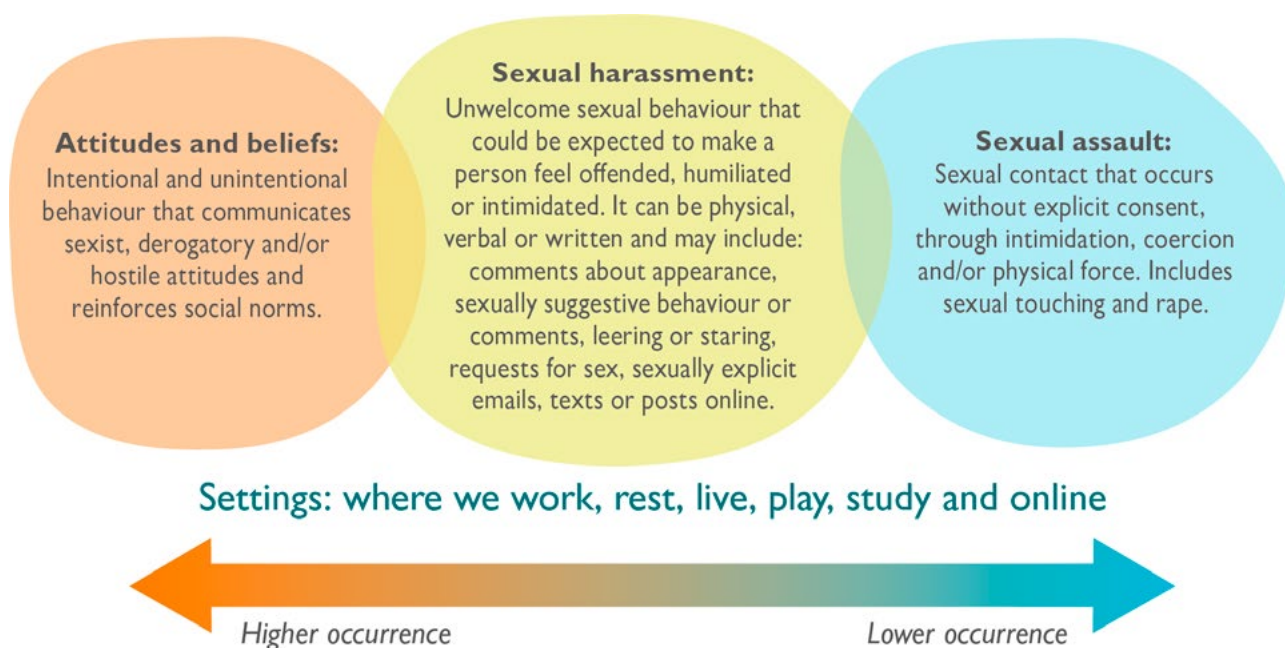
Sexual violence perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner also constitutes family violence.



Intimate partner sexual violence is often part of a larger pattern of coercive control in a relationship⁴

As with family violence, sexual violence may be considered as a spectrum of attitudes and behaviours that includes inappropriate attitudes, sexist comments and behaviours, sexual harassment, assault, rape and death.

Continuum of sexual violence⁵



What are the causes of family and sexual violence?

While there is no single cause, and the causes and contributors are complex, family and sexual violence is driven by gender inequality (see further information under Primary prevention).

Other factors may interact with, or reinforce, gender inequality and contribute to increased frequency and severity of violence, but do not drive violence in and of themselves. For example, mental health and use of alcohol and other drugs.

Who are the victim-survivors of family and sexual violence?

Family and sexual violence can affect people of all ages, genders and backgrounds, and occurs in a range of settings, such as homes, schools, workplaces, in communities and online.

Some groups are more vulnerable to experiencing family and sexual violence, including children, young women aged 18 to 24 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and people with disability⁶.

No two experiences of family or sexual violence are the same.

Nationally, Tasmania has the highest percentage of men as victim-survivors of sexual assault, with men accounting for 24 per cent of victim-survivors and women accounting for 76 per cent⁷.

What are the impacts of family and sexual violence?

Family and sexual violence are major health and welfare issues⁸.

Family and sexual violence has profound physical, psychological, social and economic impacts on victim-survivors. The impacts can include serious injury, disability or death; chronic pain and disease; mental health issues; loss of employment; financial insecurity; isolation and alienation⁹.



In Australia, intimate partner violence is the greatest health risk factor for women aged 25 to 44 years¹⁰

Witnessing family and sexual violence causes serious, lasting harm to children¹¹.

Family and sexual violence also have wider impacts on the families, workplaces and communities of victim-survivors and perpetrators.

The total annual cost of violence against women and their children in Australia was estimated to be \$22 billion in 2015-16¹².

Why is family and sexual violence referred to as violence against women?

Most men are not violent, but around 95 per cent of all victim-survivors of violence – whether women or men – experience violence from a male perpetrator¹³.

Men largely experience violence perpetrated by other men in public spaces and women mostly from men they know in private contexts¹⁴.

Most acts of family and sexual violence are perpetrated by men against women¹⁵.

All violence is unacceptable, but to prevent family and sexual violence in our community, we must acknowledge and address these gendered patterns.

This Action Plan recognises that male and gender diverse victim-survivors also require support. For example, many men have experienced sexual violence, particularly as children¹⁶.

How widespread is family and sexual violence?

Due to underreporting, the true extent of family and sexual violence in Australia is unknown. In relation to their most recent sexual assault by a male, nine out of ten women did not contact the police¹⁷.

Despite underreporting, we know that the extent of family and sexual violence in Australia is significant and persistent.

In 2017-18 there were 5,630 family violence incidents and arguments reported to Tasmania Police¹⁸.

In 2017-18 there were 184 sexual offences reported to Tasmania Police¹⁹:

- 27 per cent were committed more than a year before they were reported.
- 70 per cent occurred in residential locations.
- 82 per cent of victim-survivors were female.



There are many barriers to reporting family and sexual violence to the police including recognising the behaviour as a crime, shame and fear²⁰

The evidence for continued action

In Australia:²¹

One in two women have experienced sexual harassment during their lifetime

One in three women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15

Almost **one in ten** women have experienced violence by a stranger since the age of 15

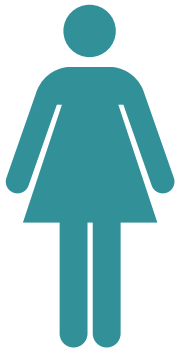
One in four women have experienced violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15

One in six women have experienced stalking since the age of 15

Australian women are nearly **three** times more likely than men to experience violence from an intimate partner

71% of people who experienced childhood abuse also experienced violence as an adult, compared with **33%** of people who did not experience child abuse

Since the age of 15:



One in four women and **one in six** men have experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner

One in five women and **one in twenty** men have experienced sexual violence

One in six women and **one in sixteen** men have experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner



One in four women and **one in thirteen** men have experienced violence by an intimate partner

One **woman** is killed every **9 days** and one **man** every **29 days** by a partner²²

In 2017, almost **25,000** sexual assaults were reported to police²³



In Tasmania:

In 2017-18 there were family violence incidents and arguments and

5,630

184 sexual assaults reported to Tasmania Police²⁴

17% of females in Tasmania experienced sexual harassment in the past 12 months²⁵

How we've shaped our response to family and sexual violence

The Tasmanian Government is committed to delivering a flexible and responsive approach to eliminating family and sexual violence.

In 2018-19, a comprehensive, cross-agency review of the Family Violence Service System in Tasmania was undertaken. The Review evaluated actions delivered through Safe Homes, Safe Families and examined the relationship between these actions and the existing family violence service response, which includes Safe at Home and community-based specialist family violence services funded by the Tasmanian Government.

The Review incorporated extensive qualitative data gathered through consultation with service providers, key stakeholders, people with lived experience of family violence and the broader community.

Key consultation activity to inform the Review included:

- service provider and client feedback for selected services through consultation with an independent consultant;
- the Hearing Lived Experience Survey, which received 500 responses from people with lived experience of family violence;
- three regional roundtables held in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart, attended by almost 130 stakeholders;
- co-convened consultation with the Australian Government Department of Social Services to inform the Fourth Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan); and
- targeted consultation with key agency and community-based stakeholders.

The latest research and evidence-based approaches adopted by other jurisdictions – including recommendations from the Victorian Government Royal Commission into Family Violence – were also considered to ensure the Tasmanian Government continues to respond to emerging priorities and incorporate evidence from work being done across Australia to address family violence.

The Review has provided an increased awareness and understanding of the functioning, impact and interrelationship of the family violence service system, and provided a comprehensive way forward.

Key findings from the Review are reported in the *Family Violence Service System Review Report* (May 2018)²⁶.

In addition to the Review, work undertaken to inform sexual violence responses included:

- comprehensive research including a literature review of the experiences, practices and sexual violence service system responses operating in other jurisdictions;
- a research trip to examine sexual violence service systems operating in Victoria and South Australia, including site visits to multidisciplinary centres (MDCs);
- examination of Tasmania's sexual violence service system response, including available data; and
- targeted interviews with government and non-government stakeholders to explore the structure and efficacy of the service system.

Under this Action Plan, we remain committed to ongoing engagement with stakeholders, the community and people with lived experience of family and sexual violence. There remains a recognition of the value of reporting back and sharing learnings to inform a collective approach to ending family and sexual violence.

Primary prevention and early intervention



Generational change is occurring. Family violence was once seen as a private matter; it is now recognised as a whole-of-community issue.

Sexual violence was not spoken of publicly; increased local, national and global community awareness has empowered people who have experienced violence to speak out.

Our increased effort and investment in primary prevention and early intervention will support ongoing initiatives to achieve change and create a community where all relationships are free from violence. We want to drive community-led responses to enable individuals and communities to be agents of changes in their own lives and communities.

The health burden of family and sexual violence can be reduced by preventing violence from occurring in the first place and intervening when there are early warning signs²⁷.

Primary prevention

Primary prevention means stopping violence from occurring by addressing the underlying causes of violence.

Change the Story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia (Change the Story)²⁸ outlines how gender inequality sets the necessary social context in which violence against women occurs.

Change the Story identifies four key expressions of gender inequality that lead to violence against women:

- condoning violence against women;
- men's control of decision making;
- rigid gender roles and stereotypes; and
- male peer relations that emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women.

By increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding of the nature and causes of family and sexual violence, and influencing attitudes to bring about behavioural change, we can end violence against women. An effective primary prevention approach will support and complement early intervention and crisis response efforts by reducing pressure on these other parts of the system.

Primary prevention makes preventing violence everyone's responsibility and asserts that we all have a role to play in changing the culture, structures and attitudes that drive family and sexual violence.

Early intervention

Early intervention aims to keep people safe; change underlying attitudes and behaviours; and/or build the skills of individuals or groups who are at risk or exhibiting early signs of using or experiencing family and sexual violence. Early intervention approaches seek to change the trajectory and avert the escalation of violence.

National Community Attitudes Survey 2017²⁹

- One in four young people don't think it is serious when boys insult or verbally harass girls in the street.
- Two in five Australians believe many women exaggerate how unequally women are treated in Australia.
- One in seven Australians do not agree that women are as capable as men in politics and in the workplace.
- Nearly one quarter of Australians see no harm in telling sexist jokes.



Actions:

1. Membership of Our Watch

Lead Minister: Premier
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

Our Watch is the national primary prevention organisation established to drive nationwide change in the culture, behaviours and power imbalances that lead to violence against women and their children.

As an Our Watch member we are contributing to the national effort to realise the vision of an Australia where women and their children live free from all forms of violence.

2. Establish an Our Watch Primary Prevention Officer in Tasmania

Lead Minister: Premier
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

A key finding of the Review that was reinforced through community consultation, was the need to: invest in primary prevention; consolidate primary prevention activities; and ensure that community-led primary prevention activities reinforce consistent and correct messages.

The Our Watch Primary Prevention Officer will build primary prevention capacity, capability and expertise in Tasmania. They will work closely with government and non-government services to implement key Our Watch projects in Tasmania; work with Our Watch Ambassadors to promote primary prevention activities in Tasmania; and provide organisations with technical advice and expertise on building primary prevention in their organisations and communities.

3. Embed Respectful Relationship education in all Tasmanian Government schools

Lead Minister: Minister for Education
and Training
Agency: Department of Education

This action supports ongoing delivery to embed Respectful Relationships education.

Respectful Relationships education supports students and school communities to build healthy, respectful and equal relationships and address the attitudes and behaviours that lead to violence.

In Australia, one in eight young people believe women often say 'no' when they mean 'yes'; and around one in seven young people believe a man would be justified to force sex if the women initiated it, but then changed her mind and pushed him away³⁰.

4. Support the successful National Campaign Stop It At The Start

Lead Ministers: Premier and Minister
for Women
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

This action supports implementation of the next phase of the National Campaign, to be delivered under the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan, due for release in 2019.

5. Support implementation of the new National Sexual Violence Campaign

Lead Ministers: Premier and Minister for Women
Agency: Department of Communities Tasmania

This action will support development and delivery of a new sexual violence campaign under the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan.

In Australia, one in seven young people think women often make false allegations of sexual assault³¹. This is despite research showing false reports are rare and family and sexual violence being under-reported³².

6. Continue to ensure that gender equality and respect are at the centre of all Tasmanian State Service workplaces

Lead Minister: Premier
Agency: All departments

Workplaces need to actively promote and normalise gender equality and challenge sexism and discrimination because: violence, harassment and sexism occurs in workplaces; violence that occurs at home or in the community can also impact at work; and workplace structures and cultures can create gender inequality.

Under Safe Homes, Safe Families, six departments received White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation (WRWA), with three departments due to be accredited in 2019-20. This action builds on from WRWA, supporting the Tasmanian State Service to ensure that gender equality and respect are at the centre of all workplaces.

In Australia, people identifying with diverse sexual orientation are 1.7 times more likely to have experienced workplace sexual harassment than people identifying as heterosexual³³.

7. Develop a family and sexual violence website

Lead Minister: Premier
Agency: Department of Communities Tasmania

There is no single information portal for family and sexual violence in Tasmania. The Review and consultation clearly identified the need for a central point of information and resources, including clear, accurate and up-to-date information for victim-survivors, family and friends.

The website will be designed to provide clear, targeted information for victim-survivors; perpetrators; family and friends; children and young people; service providers; and workplaces.

It will also include information for groups at increased risk of violence, and/or who face additional barriers to seeking support including children and young people; men; older people; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; LGBTI people; and migrant and multicultural communities.

One in three young Australians say they would not know where to secure help about a family violence matter³⁴.

Men who have experienced family or sexual violence can face barriers to disclosure and to seeking support³⁵.

8. Work with the eSafety Commissioner to deliver education and training in response to technology-facilitated abuse

Lead Minister: Premier
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

Technology-facilitated abuse was identified through the Review and consultation as a key issue to address. While technology can serve as a lifeline for people experiencing family and sexual violence by keeping them connected to family, friends and support services, it can also be a liability.

Technology-facilitated abuse is becoming more widespread. More than one in five students experienced technology-based sexual harassment in 2016³⁶. Research by the eSafety Commissioner found that 22 per cent of victim-survivors who did not take action in response to image-based abuse identified a lack of knowledge about what to do as the main barrier³⁷.

The eSafety Commissioner coordinates and leads online safety efforts across government, industry and the community. Under this action, the Tasmanian Government will support and promote eSafety education and training opportunities in Tasmania.

9. Deliver a Problem Sexual Behaviours (PSB) and Sexually Abusive Behaviours (SAB) program for children and young people

Lead Minister: Minister for Human Services
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

Under this action, the Government will deliver a new statewide program for children and young people up to 17 years displaying PSB/SAB, commencing in 2020-21.

This program will address a service system gap that stakeholders consistently identified as a priority need. PSB/SAB requires a specialist response that cannot be provided through mainstream therapeutic counselling services. If not addressed, children

demonstrating PSB/SAB have high incidence of becoming adult perpetrators and/or victim-survivors of sexual and family violence.

10. Support Tasmanian Aboriginal communities to deliver targeted primary prevention and early intervention programs and to improve service delivery for Aboriginal people affected by family and sexual violence

Lead Minister: Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

The ongoing impacts of colonisation set the underlying context for family and sexual violence in Aboriginal communities. This action recognises that Aboriginal communities want a more meaningful role in developing programs and responses. The Warawarni-gu Guma Statement, released at the ANROWS Conference in May 2018 states: *'Nothing about our mob, without our mob.' This is not a slogan. This is critical not only for our healing, but for yours as our fellow Australians; this is the starting point for our relationship*³⁸.

This action aligns with the Closing the Gap Refresh which recognises that in order to effect real change, governments must work collaboratively and in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

*Family violence occurs at higher rates in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities than in the general population. Family violence within Indigenous communities needs to be understood as both a cause and effect of social disadvantage and intergenerational trauma*³⁹.

11. Trial the Step Up adolescent intervention program

Lead Minister: Minister for Human Services
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania
Delivered by: Colony 47

Step Up is an early intervention program for young people that aims to assist them to understand the consequences of violent behaviour; strengthen family and intimate relationships; and provide referral pathways to other specialist services. The Group Program is for young people aged 12 to 17 years who have been violent towards family members and the Individual Program is for young people aged 16 to 17 years who have been violent towards an intimate partner.

Research suggests that violence occurring in families may be a strong predictor of other violence, with many adult perpetrators having experienced some form of familial violence⁴⁰. Violent young offenders often come from homes where familial and family violence has occurred.

This action is funded by the Australian Government under the National Plan. The trial will support delivery of both programs in the South and an evaluation to inform options for future delivery.

12. Strengthen the Defendant Health Liaison Service (DHLS) to provide early intervention to offenders

Lead Minister: Minister for Health
Agency: Department of Health

Timely and appropriate responses to people who use violent and controlling behaviours is a key component of an integrated family violence system.

The DHLS is a service for people who have been involved in a family violence incident and issued with a Family Violence Order (FVO). It provides information and advice about FVOs; how to prevent breaches; and referrals to other services.

The 2014-15 Safe at Home performance review found that the DHLS has the most potential to provide early intervention to offenders to assist them to change their behaviour and reduce recidivism.

This action continues to support an additional DHLS Officer in the North in response to increased demand.

95 per cent of all victim-survivors of violence in Australia report a male perpetrator⁴¹.

13. Deliver the Men's Referral Service

Lead Minister: Minister for Corrections
Agency: Department of Justice
Delivered by: No To Violence

Under this action, No To Violence will continue to deliver the Men's Referral Service in Tasmania: a men's family violence telephone counselling, information and referral service. It provides a point of contact for men taking responsibility for their violent behaviour; and support and referrals for women and men seeking information on behalf of their male partners, friends or family members, and support services seeking assistance for their clients.

Response and recovery



While primary prevention and early intervention work towards preventing violence and creating an environment where victim-survivors feel they can report their experiences, crisis and recovery responses provide the next level of support for victim-survivors, including children, and perpetrators.

Significant progress has been made in addressing family and sexual violence in our community. Increased reporting demonstrates the need for ongoing and additional investment in frontline crisis and recovery responses. Responses to hold perpetrators to account and support them to change their violent attitudes and behaviours are also required.

In Tasmania, both government and non-government services provide family and sexual violence support. A crisis response can include police, support workers, and medical staff. Recovery services may include a range of short and long term therapeutic and practical supports, such as counselling, housing or behaviour change programs.

A focus on crisis responses ensures victim-survivors have access to the specialist support services they need and that perpetrators are held to account.

A focus on recovery ensures victim-survivors overcome the trauma of family and sexual violence and go on to live lives free from violence, and perpetrators are supported to change their violent behaviours.

As part of the Review, extensive consultation was undertaken with specialist and mainstream service providers and community stakeholders

to ensure the right balance of services is provided to meet need. The Hearing Lived Experience Survey provided invaluable insight into the lived experience of family violence, to inform what services are required, and how we can refine service delivery to better support people affected by family and sexual violence.

Safe at Home is Tasmania's integrated, whole of government criminal justice response to family violence. Under Safe at Home, a range of services work together to protect and support victim-survivors of family violence (including children and young people) while making offenders responsible for their behaviours. Safe at Home responds to all reported incidents of family violence. Actions under this plan build on services provided through Safe at Home, as well as the services provided by specialist family and sexual violence services funded by the Tasmanian Government.

High quality services can minimise the harm experienced by victim-survivors, including children. We are continuing to invest in the services that victim-survivors need and are increasing our efforts to deliver services that support and empower victim-survivors towards recovery. These responses span specialist family and sexual violence services and increase the capacity of mainstream services to respond effectively.

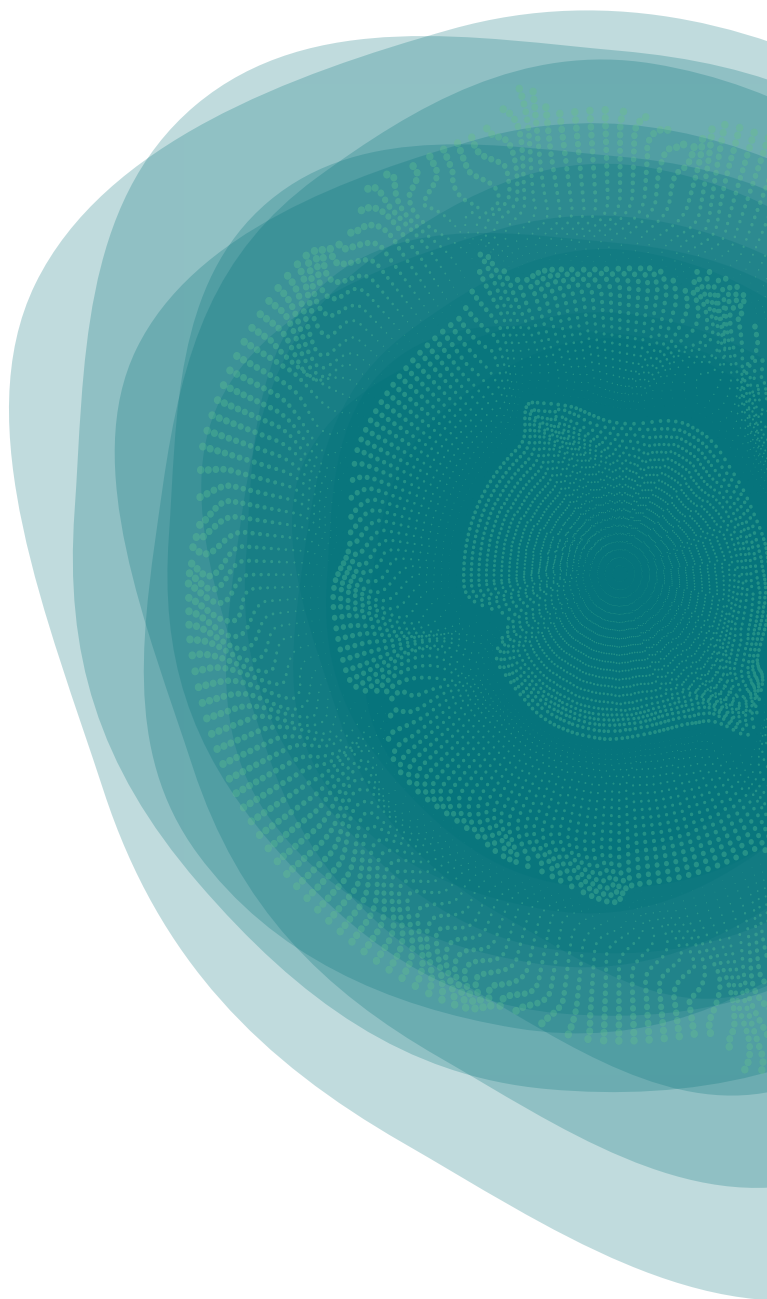
Research has shown that children exposed to family and sexual violence can experience long term effects on their development and wellbeing; have increased risk of mental health issues; and behavioural and learning difficulties⁴².

This Action Plan provides additional counselling services for children and young people, responding to the need for increased support identified by the Review.

Children's exposure to family and sexual violence in Australia⁴³

- 68 per cent of mothers who had children in their care when they experienced violence from their partner said the children had seen or heard the violence.
- One in six girls and one in nine boys have been physically and/or sexually abused before age 15.
- Children in families with persistent family violence have the worst health and social outcomes.
- Children who are exposed to family violence are between two and four times more likely than non-exposed children to be in violent relationships as an adult.

We are also increasing investment to hold perpetrators to account and deliver programs to drive behaviour change, including introducing the ability to require a perpetrator to complete a behaviour change program as part of a Family Violence Order.





14. Deliver Safe Choices

Lead Minister: Minister for Human Services
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania
Delivered by: CatholicCare

This action supports ongoing delivery of Safe Choices, the statewide non-crisis service that provides practical information and supports, advice and referrals to people experiencing family violence and those who want to leave violent relationships. Safe Choices can also be accessed by family and friends seeking information or support.

Safe Choices is delivered through face-to-face services based out of Hobart, Burnie and Launceston; a statewide phonenumber service and website.

15. Support women with disability through the Local Support Coordinator role in Safe Choices

Lead Minister: Minister for Human Services
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania
Delivered by: CatholicCare

The Local Support Coordinator provides practical support, information and advice for women with disability. Compared to their peers, women with disability experience significantly higher levels of all forms of violence by a greater number of perpetrators. Their experiences of violence last over a longer period and result in more severe injuries.

This action is funded by the Australian Government under the National Plan.

In Australia, people with disability are 1.8 times more likely to have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner compared with people without disability⁴⁴.

16. Support children and their families through the Safe Homes, Safe Families Support Team

Lead Minister: Minister for Education
and Training
Agency: Department of Education

This action supports ongoing delivery of the Safe Homes, Safe Families Support Team in Tasmanian Government Schools and Child and Family Centres (CFCs). The Support Team is made up of social workers and psychologists across the state, who respond to notifications from the Safe Families Coordination Unit and work with principals, CFCs and school-based support staff to determine how to best support the child/children involved.

The Support Team is also a conduit to Safe at Home, with information they provide at weekly Safe at Home Integrated Case Coordination meetings critical to informing responses.

17. Support Aboriginal families through the Aboriginal Family Safety Workers in Child and Family Centres

Lead Minister: Minister for Education
and Training
Agency: Department of Education

This action supports ongoing delivery of the Aboriginal Family Safety Workers. Aboriginal Family Safety Workers, based in CFCs, provide culturally appropriate support, engaging with Aboriginal families to deliver activities that promote family safety and address family violence and its impact on children.

18. Provide increased counselling services for children and young people experiencing family violence

Lead Minister: Minister for Human Services
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania
Delivered by: Australian Childhood
Foundation

A key finding of the Review was the need to increase support for children and young people impacted by family violence. Evaluation and stakeholder advice identified the need to: refine service delivery models across specialist counselling services; provide more equitable provision of counselling to students in government and non-government schools; and consider how group therapy models could be established.

Responses to these findings will be addressed through this action.

19. Provide counselling services for adults experiencing family violence

Lead Minister: Minister for Human Services
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania
Delivered by: Engender Equality

This action supports ongoing delivery of statewide counselling services for adults experiencing family violence.

20. Invest in crisis accommodation through the Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-2023

Lead Minister: Minister for Housing
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

Under the Affordable Housing Action Plan 2, the Government will: invest in new homeless accommodation for men with or without accompanying children and homeless youth accommodation in the North West; expand Magnolia House in Launceston to increase support for women to move out of crisis and into stable accommodation and provide short term accommodation for young people

in the North; and co-invest in new homeless accommodation for older men, women with or without accompanying children, and men in the South.

Nationally, 42 per cent of clients accessing specialist Homelessness Services had experienced domestic and family violence⁴⁵.

21. Deliver the Rapid Rehousing program for people experiencing family violence

Lead Minister: Minister for Housing
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

This action supports ongoing delivery of the Rapid Rehousing Program, which provides supported housing options for families affected by family violence, allowing them to access safe and affordable rental homes. Perpetrators can also access the program to enable victim-survivors to remain in their own homes when it is safe to do so.

Over 50 per cent of women in Australia who permanently left a previous violent partner reported that they, not their partner, moved out of the home they shared⁴⁶.

22. Deliver the Keeping Women Safe In Their Homes program

Lead Minister: Minister for Justice
Agency: Department of Justice

The Keeping Women Safe program provides access to security upgrades for women and children experiencing family violence so that they can remain safely in their own home or a home of their choice. Types of security upgrades include security screens, doors, locks and security cameras with capacity to collect admissible evidence and sensor lights.

This action is funded by the Australian Government under the National Plan.

23. Provide legal assistance to people experiencing family violence

Lead Minister: Minister for Justice
Agency: Department of Justice
Delivered by: Women's Legal Service Tasmania and the Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania

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

Services delivered under this action include legal advice, representation and outreach services; provision of legal education and training across Tasmania; and collaboration with other legal and non-legal service providers that assist and support people affected and at risk of family violence.

24. Deliver perpetrator programs for low, medium and high-risk perpetrators

Lead Minister: Minister for Corrections
Agency: Department of Justice
Delivered by: Relationships Australia Tasmania and Community Corrections

Under this action, Relationships Australia Tasmania will continue to deliver the Men Employing New Strategies behaviour change program for low to medium risk perpetrators. The action will also support Community Corrections to deliver the EQUIPS programs for men and women who perpetrate family violence; and the Family Violence Offender Intervention Program for high-risk perpetrators.

25. Introduce the ability to require mandated behaviour change program participation as part of a Family Violence Order

Lead Minister: Minister for Corrections
Agency: Department of Justice

Under this action, participation in the Men Employing New Strategies program, EQUIPS program or the Family Violence Offender Intervention Program can be court-mandated as part of a Family Violence Order.

26. Extend forensic medical examinations for adult victim-survivors of family and sexual violence to a statewide service

Lead Minister: Minister for Health
Agency: Department of Health

Under Safe Homes, Safe Families, forensic medical examinations (FMEs) were made available to victim-survivors of family violence at the Royal Hobart Hospital and the Launceston General Hospital.

Under this action, FMEs will be available for victim-survivors of family violence at the North West Regional Hospital. The service provides another option for care and advice, as the forensic nurse examiner can assist victim-survivors by providing referrals to other support services. The service also gives police and the justice system the best possible chance of convicting perpetrators, as the forensic nurse examiner can be called as an expert witness or supply a medico-legal report as evidence.

People living in remote and very remote areas are 24 times more likely to be hospitalised for family violence as people in major cities⁴⁷.

On average, eight women a day are hospitalised after being assaulted by their partner⁴⁸.

Strengthening the service system



People who experience family and sexual violence need an accessible, coordinated and responsive service system. The system must be integrated to create clear entry points and pathways for victim-survivors and perpetrators, to access the support they need to make informed choices about safety, recovery and justice.

“High quality sexual assault services can minimise all forms of harm experienced by the victim-survivor”⁴⁹.

It is critical that all components of the family and sexual violence service system are coordinated – from prevention to therapeutic services and justice responses.

Building upon the success of Safe at Home and Safe Homes, Safe Families, we have the opportunity to develop longer term strategies to strengthen the service system and incorporate sexual violence into this response.

Best-practice systems integrate services to achieve client-focused and trauma-informed care.

Under this Action Plan we will strengthen the service system through:

- increased coordination and collaboration;
- enhanced programs and services;
- building workforce capacity;
- legislation and procedures; and
- whole-of-government governance and oversight.

We will also establish the foundations to build a more integrated service system.

Individual characteristics such as gender, age, disability, socio-economic status, culture and sexuality can intersect and impact on a person’s experience of violence and their ability to access services.

Training, workforce development and continuous service improvement will ensure that we can meet the needs of people affected by family and sexual violence. *The 2017 National Survey of Workers in the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Sectors*⁵⁰ found that many workers felt they need additional training to support specific client groups including children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTI people and migrant and multicultural communities.

This Action Plan will develop strategies to support a competency-based approach to workforce development, to align with work being undertaken at the national level through the National Plan.

Actions:

27. Strengthen the Safe Families Coordination Unit (SFCU)

Lead Minister: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Agency: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

This action supports ongoing delivery of the SFCU and increased investment in response to an independent evaluation which recommended consideration of resourcing requirements.

The SFCU brings together government agencies in a statewide unit to provide timely responses to family violence. The SFCU has access to the best available information from across government, to ensure a collaborative approach that supports identified families at risk and holds perpetrators of family violence to account.

An additional Department of Education Investigator will respond to the significant increase in school notifications and will provide greater support for students in non-government schools.

A new Data Analyst will support better data collection and ensure our responses to family violence remain evidence-based. The Data Analyst will also support an increased focus on sexual violence occurring in family violence.

The Hearing Lived Experience Survey found that while 46 per cent of respondents indicated they had experienced sexual violence in their relationships, 68 per cent said they felt they had been forced or pressured to have sex with their partner or pressured to do something they did not like. This reflects that a lack of consent and coercion in a relationship is not necessarily identified by the victim-survivor as sexual violence.

28. Trial electronic monitoring of high-risk family violence offenders, with opt-in available for victim-survivors

Lead Minister: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Agency: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

This action supports ongoing delivery of the electronic monitoring trial. This project commenced in May 2017, with the trial commencing in November 2018.

The trial will assist in determining whether technology can prevent or reduce incidents of family violence. The trial targets high-risk family violence perpetrators and includes monitoring of victim-survivors on an opt-in basis. Victim-survivors can carry a small, portable GPS device to enhance the ability of officials to detect breaches involving perpetrator approaches to victim-survivors inside identified exclusion zones.

29. Strengthen specialist police prosecution services

Lead Minister: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Agency: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

Safe Homes, Safe Families provided three additional dedicated police prosecutors, one in each region. Under this Action Plan there is increased investment to fund an additional northern-based police prosecutor in response to increased demand on services.

30. Implement legislative reform to strengthen legal responses to family and sexual violence

Lead Minister: Attorney-General
Agency: Department of Justice

Safe Homes, Safe Families had a strong focus on strengthening the legislative response to family violence and several key reforms have been progressed since 2015. Additional investment under this Action Plan will enable the government to continue its focus on reform to ensure the legal system remains responsive to family and sexual violence.

31. Improve data collection and reporting

Lead Minister: Minister for Justice
Agency: Department of Justice

The Safe at Home Information Management System (SIMS) was purpose built to support the integrated criminal justice response. This action ensures that SIMS can continue to support Safe at Home services and respond to increased demand.

32. Membership of Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)

Lead Minister: Minister for Women
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

Tasmania is a foundation member of ANROWS, which was established under the National Plan. ANROWS is committed to delivering innovative and relevant research, and building a national evidence base that supports policy and practice in reducing violence against women and their children. ANROWS membership has been included as an action to highlight the Tasmanian Government's support for ANROWS and to recognise the importance of an evidence-based approach to all family and sexual violence policies, programs and services.

33. Strengthen mechanisms for schools to respond to technology facilitated abuse including image-based abuse

Lead Minister: Minister for Education and Training
Agency: Department of Education

This action supports government and non-government schools to respond effectively to technology-facilitated abuse experienced by students.

The impacts of image-based abuse can be far reaching, affecting self-esteem, mental health and physical wellbeing. It can also have negative effects on school work, study and performance at school⁵¹.

The establishment of reporting processes will support safe online interactions for students.

This action also responds to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Around 20 per cent of Australians have experienced image-based abuse⁵².

34. Roll out mobile phone data extraction devices to collect evidence of technology-facilitated abuse

Lead Minister: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Agency: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

This action supports the rollout of devices for use by Tasmania Police in the investigation of family and sexual violence, with particular benefits for rural and remote communities. The devices mean that victim-survivors are not required to give up their mobile phones for extended periods so that data can be extracted for evidentiary purposes.

35. Centralise management of family and sexual violence services within the Department of Communities Tasmania

Lead Minister: Minister for Human Services
Agency: Department of Communities Tasmania

Under this action the Government will work with community-based specialist family and sexual violence services to standardise reporting and data collection to ensure ongoing best-practice, compliance with National Standards and evidence-based service delivery that responds to demand.

36. Introduce standardised risk assessment processes across government and non-government family and sexual violence services

Lead Ministers: Minister for Human Services and Minister for Health
Agencies: Departments of Communities Tasmania; and Health

Under this action, the Government will support services to effectively identify, assess and manage risk to increase safety for victim-survivors. Services include: Tasmanian Accident and Emergency departments; Child Health and Parenting Services; the Child Safety Service; and all non-government funded family and sexual violence specialist services.

Safe at Home services use an evidence-based standardised risk assessment tool as part of its response to all reported incidents of family violence. However, across the family violence service system different risk assessment processes are used.

Standardised risk management across an integrated service system was a critical service gap identified through the Review and by the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Standardised practice will result in better outcomes for adult and children victim-survivors through a consistent, evidence-based approach to risk assessment and management across the sector.

This action takes a critical step in working towards a more efficient and effective family and sexual violence service system.

37. Develop and deliver training across identified Tasmanian Government services to respond to family and sexual violence

Lead Minister: Minister for Human Services
Agencies: Departments of Communities Tasmania; Health; and Education

This action will build early intervention and response capability across key workforces that intersect with family violence. Review findings and consultation identified workforce development and ongoing capability building as a priority need. Consultation also highlighted the view that family violence is everyone's responsibility and we need to build capacity of non-specialist services. Sector workers are highly qualified, but not all workers feel their formal qualifications have prepared them well enough for working with people affected by family and sexual violence.

38. Establish a Family Violence Liaison Officer in the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line

Lead Minister: Minister for Human Services
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

The Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence recommended greater collaboration between child safety and specialist family violence and integrated family services to ensure families experiencing family violence do not fall between the cracks.

The Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line is a contact point for people seeking information, advice and assistance if they have concerns about a child and their family.

The Liaison Officer will assist in identifying the best service response to support families experiencing family violence, and be a conduit between specialist and non-specialist family violence services.

39. Undertake a feasibility study for a disclosure scheme in Tasmania

Lead Minister: Minister for Police
Agencies: Departments of Police, Fire and Emergency Management; Communities Tasmania; and Justice

A disclosure scheme enables people who may be at risk of family violence to find out if their current partner has a history of violent criminal offences.

Disclosure schemes are currently being trialled in New South Wales and South Australia. The Tasmanian Government will monitor these trials and consider implementation of a scheme in Tasmania beyond the life of this Action Plan.

40. Review the regional sexual assault protocols

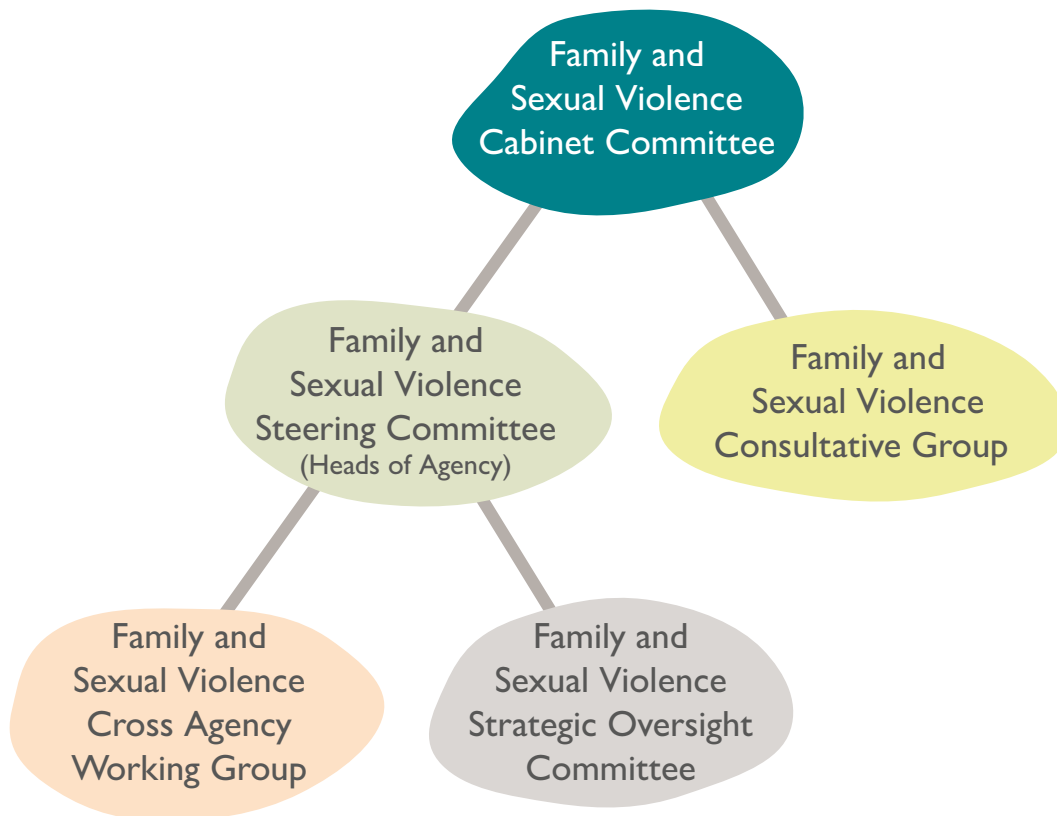
Lead Minister: Minister for Human Services
Agency: Department of Communities
Tasmania

The sexual assault crisis response in Tasmania is coordinated across key services including police, medical and sexual assault support services. The coordination protocols between services will be reviewed to ensure ongoing alignment with best-practice care principles.

This action will ensure the ongoing delivery of an integrated, multi-disciplinary crisis response to sexual assault in Tasmania. It also provides the opportunity to build upon the existing system and take additional steps to provide trauma-informed and client-centred care.

Governance

The governance arrangements for Safe Homes, Safe Families provided the structures needed to successfully implement actions.



Under this Action Plan we will continue to deliver actions through a coordinated and collaborative effort between government agencies, with our non-government partners.

Going forward, the governance structure will support the Tasmanian Government's response to both family and sexual violence.

As we work toward streamlining new and additional services with those already delivered through the existing family and sexual violence service system, we need to ensure the governance model remains fit-for-purpose.

Accordingly, we will review the current roles and responsibilities, taking into account Review findings. This includes how we continue to consult and work with key stakeholders including people with lived experience of family and sexual violence.

The Review highlighted the need to enhance the relationship between government and non-government services to create a more integrated response. Under this Action Plan we have taken the first step to achieve this by centralising coordination and management of community-based family and sexual violence services within the Department of Communities Tasmania.

Implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

The Tasmanian Government will monitor implementation of each action and undertake ongoing evaluation to inform future delivery.

Implementation of actions under 'Strengthening the service system' will enhance data and reporting capacity, enabling us to continue building the evidence base for Tasmania. This evidence base will continue to underpin our flexible and responsive approach and enable us to tailor programs and services to be effective and provide the best outcomes for women, men and children affected by family and sexual violence.

As part of the Government's commitment to transparency and accountability, we will publicly release annual progress reports.

Budget

Responding to family and sexual violence is not just about the dollars. It is about ensuring we have the right initiatives and actions in place.

Under Safe Homes, Safe Families, the Government adopted a flexible and evidence-based approach to underpin decisions about the allocation of the Safe Homes, Safe Families budget. This included a central budget management process that enabled the reallocation of funding to new, one-off activities to address priorities from any savings. This process will remain in place under the new Action Plan.

Terminology and definitions

VICTIM-SURVIVOR

This Action Plan uses the term 'victim-survivor', to describe people who have experienced or are experiencing family and sexual violence. The term recognises the strength and resilience shown by people who have experienced or who are living with family violence. It is acknowledged that not every person who has experienced, or is experiencing family violence, identifies with this term.

The phrase 'person who has experienced violence', which labels the behaviour rather than the person, is also used.

PERPETRATOR

This Action Plan uses the term 'perpetrator' to describe people who commit family and sexual violence. The term 'offender' is also used. These terms reinforce the serious and criminal nature of family and sexual violence.

The phrase 'person who uses violence' is an alternative description used, which acknowledges that perpetration of violence does not define perpetrators, and that many people who perpetrate violence have experienced their own trauma and difficulties.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Any form of violence used to establish, enforce or perpetuate gender inequalities and keep in place unequal gender power relations. Family and sexual violence are considered gender-based violence because they disproportionately affect women.

Women are far more likely than men to experience family and sexual violence, with more severe impacts.

Women are more likely than men to be afraid of, hospitalised by, or killed by an intimate partner. Experiences of violence are also gendered, with men subjected to violence mostly from other men in public spaces, and women mostly from men they know in private contexts.

TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED ABUSE

Technology-facilitated abuse encompasses a range of behaviours where technology is used to control, abuse, harass, punish, bully, stalk, impersonate, scare, threaten, coerce and/or exploit a victim-survivor.

Examples include installing spyware on devices; restricting access to finances; restricting methods of communication; sexting; monitoring; remotely accessing devices; sending threatening and abusive texts or emails; GPS tracking; and image-based abuse.

IMAGE-BASED ABUSE

Image-based abuse occurs when intimate, nude or sexual images are distributed, or threatened to be distributed/shared, without the consent of those pictured. This includes real, altered and drawn pictures and videos.

Image-based abuse may also be referred to as 'revenge porn', 'non-consensual sharing of intimate images', or 'intimate image abuse'. 'Revenge porn' is the term most commonly used in the media; however it is not encouraged as in many cases it is not about 'revenge', nor is it restricted to 'porn'.

PROBLEM SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS AND SEXUALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIOURS

Problem sexual behaviour (PSB) is defined as behaviour in children and young people that is outside the behaviour considered 'normal' according to their age and level of development. PSB may be socially inappropriate and may cause harm to the young person displaying the behaviour or to others.

When harmful behaviour is directed at others it is called sexually abusive behaviour (SAB).

Children and young people engaging in PSB/SAB are not the same as adult perpetrators of sexual violence.

Policy context

This Action Plan complements international, national and state policies and programs to address family and sexual violence.

International Agreements

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* contains human rights standards and customs agreed to by nations of the world. These agreements promote, at the most basic level, the right of all individuals to live free from violence of all kinds, including physical, sexual and psychological violence.

The United Nations *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women* recognises that for women to experience the full benefits of principles enshrined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, it must also be a priority to eliminate violence perpetrated against them. It includes obligations on countries to condemn violence against women and pursue a policy of eliminating violence against women; including acts of sexual violence and threats or coercion of such violence.

The United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* requires countries to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

The United Nations *Sustainable Development Goals* are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Goal Five: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, recognises that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children

The National Plan, endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), brings together the Australian, state and territory governments, and the community to make a significant and sustained reduction in domestic, family and sexual violence in Australia.

The National Plan sets out six national outcomes for all governments to deliver:

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; and
6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account for their actions.

Key national achievements of the National Plan include the establishment of ANROWS, Our Watch and 1800RESPECT

Closing the Gap Policy Refresh

Since 2008, Australian, state and territory governments have worked together to deliver better health, education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to eliminate the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

In December 2018, COAG committed to forming a formal partnership with Indigenous Australians to finalise the Closing the Gap Refresh and provide a forum for ongoing engagement throughout implementation of the new agenda.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse, commencing in 2013, was a five-year inquiry into the past institutional responses to child sexual abuse in Australia.

The Commission released its final report in December 2017, along with separate reports on Redress and Civil Litigation and Criminal Justice. A total of 409 recommendations were made.

The Royal Commission exposed the widespread abuse of children and young people in institutions in Australia. It found that in addition to being an historical issue, sexual abuse of children and young people continues today. The Royal Commission also identified that child sexual abuse can also be perpetrated by children against children.

The Tasmanian Government has formally responded to all the Recommendations, with the Department of Justice leading implementation of Tasmania's response.

In May 2018, the Tasmanian Government announced that it will opt in to the National Redress Scheme.

Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence

In March 2016, the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence made 227 recommendations to prevent family violence, keep victim-survivors safe and supported, and hold perpetrators to account.

The recommendations outlined the systemic and cultural change needed to achieve the vision of a Victoria free from family violence.

The Victorian Government committed to implement all recommendations.

Safe at Home

Safe at Home is Tasmania's integrated, whole of government criminal justice response to family violence. It brings together a range of services to protect and support victim-survivors of family violence, including children and young people, while making offenders responsible for their behaviours. Safe at Home responds to all reported incidents of family violence. It has been enhanced by investment in schools and community based specialist family violence services under Safe Homes, Safe Families.

Accessible Island: Tasmania's Disability Framework for Action 2018-2021

Accessible Island is the third stage of a whole-of-government approach to ensure that all government departments implement socially just policies and practices for Tasmanians with disability.

Accessible Island links to the *National Disability Strategy 2010-2020*, which outlines a 10-year national policy framework for improving the lives of Australians with disability, their families and carers.

Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-2023

The *Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-2023* represents Stage Two of Tasmania's *Affordable Housing Strategy* and builds upon the work already started to increase the supply of houses across the spectrum.

In addition to actions to increase supply and access to housing, the Action Plan is designed to build a more responsive service, that connects clients to support services and helps Tasmanians most in need to find safe and secure accommodation.

Child and Student Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2021: Safe, Well and Positive Learners

The *Child and Student Wellbeing Strategy* is the Department of Education's framework for supporting the wellbeing of Tasmanian students and establishing a more detailed approach to measuring, monitoring and promoting children and young people's wellbeing across all areas of the service system.

Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework

Tasmania's *Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework* aims to ensure that everyone, in all parts of Tasmania's service system, as well as in the broader community, has a strong, common understanding of child and youth wellbeing. It provides a definition of wellbeing based on six domains and has a variety of applications to deliver better outcomes for children and young people in Tasmania.

The Framework is an action under the *Strong Families, Safe Kids Implementation Plan 2016-2020*.

Respect and Protect Older Tasmanians: Tasmania's Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy 2019-2023

Respect and Protect Older Tasmanians is informed by the *National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians (Elder Abuse) 2019-2023*. It delivers actions across five key themes: awareness, empowerment, action, support and safeguards. It includes the continuation of key initiatives such as the Tasmanian Elder Abuse Helpline and the Elder Abuse Advocacy Service.

Strong Families, Safe Kids: Redesign of Child Protection Services Tasmania

In 2015, the Tasmanian Government commenced *Strong Families, Safe Kids* to redesign and build a new and more contemporary child protection system.

The Redesign is supported by the *Strong Families, Safe Kids Implementation Plan 2016-2020* and has included implementation of the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line, which provides a single point of entry for people seeking information, advice and service referral regarding the safety and wellbeing of children.

Tasmanian Multicultural Policy and Action Plan 2019-2022

The *Tasmanian Multicultural Policy and Action Plan* will be launched in 2019 and sets overarching principles and directions to support a culturally diverse, inclusive and socially cohesive Tasmania.

Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2018-2021

The *Tasmanian Women's Strategy* provides a framework for government, the private sector and the wider Tasmanian community to take significant action to achieve gender equality in Tasmania.

The Strategy identifies actions across four priority areas: financial security; safety; leadership and participation; and health and wellbeing.

Whole-of-Government Framework for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Tasmanians

The *LGBTI Framework* informs the way that the Tasmanian Government supports LGBTI Tasmanians to participate in every aspect of social, economic, political and cultural life. The Framework ensures government policies and services are accessible to, and inclusive of, LGBTI Tasmanians, their friends and families. A new Framework and Action Plan will be launched in the later part of 2019.

Youth At Risk Strategy

The *Youth At Risk Strategy* aligns and builds upon several reforms occurring across government to provide a long-term whole-of-government strategic direction for responding to the safety and rehabilitative needs of young people.

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Key achievements

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

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

7,792 children affected by family violence identified

5,064 notifications made by the Safe Families Coordination Unit to schools to support students experiencing family violence

797 clients provided with support, counselling and referral options by Safe Choices service (1 July 2016 – 31 March 2018)



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

4,086 students affected by family violence supported by the Safe Homes, Safe Families Professional Support Team

Over **45 million** online views of the *Stop It At The Start!* national campaign video



4,169 additional hours of counselling and service provision for children and young people provided by the Australian Childhood Foundation (from 1 October 2016)

4,117 additional hours of counselling services for adults provided by Engender Equality

50 additional houses made available for families experiencing family violence through the Rapid Rehousing Program

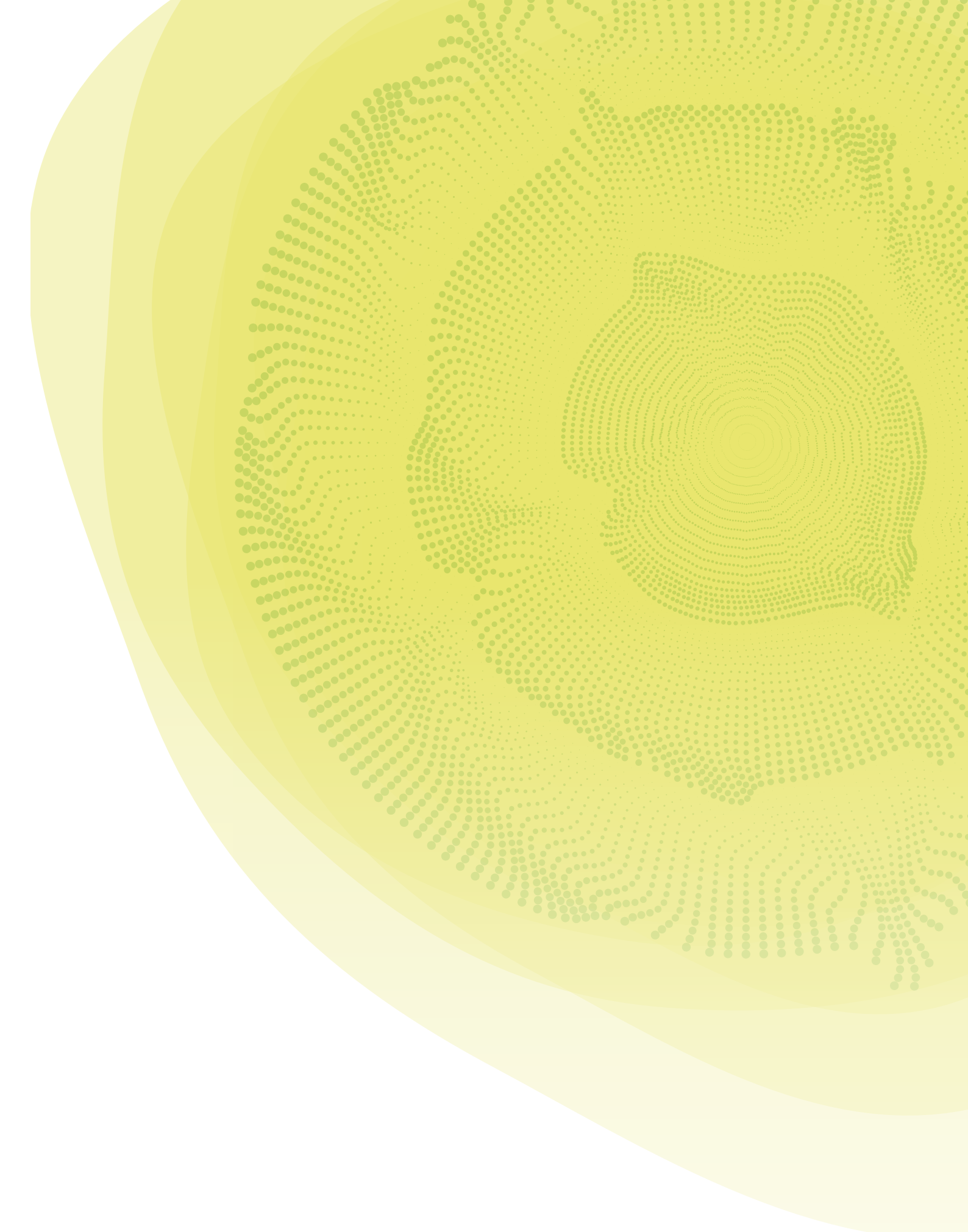


1,233 additional clients provided with legal assistance by Women's Legal Service Tasmania and Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania (from 1 January 2017)

1,453 clients assessed and provided with information and referral through the Men's Referral Service

191 women provided with safety upgrades to support them to remain in their home or home of choice (from 1 January 2017)

* Data is for the period 1 July 2016 – 31 March 2019 unless otherwise stated





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Visit: www.dpac.tas.gov.au/safehomesfamiliescommunities