

2 April 2026

Department of Justice
Office of the Secretary
GPO Box 825
Hobart TAS 7001

via email: haveyoursay@justice.tas.gov.au

To the Department of Justice,

Re: *Strengthening our Responses to Family Violence in Tasmania*

Community Legal Centres Tasmania (CLC Tas) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the *Strengthening our Responses to Family Violence in Tasmania Family Violence Act 2004 and Related Legislation Discussion Paper* ('the Discussion Paper').¹ We commend the Tasmanian Government for its commitment to continuously evaluating and improving its response to family violence through prevention and early intervention. Our submission recommends amendments to the *Family Violence Act 2004*, *Police Offences Act 1935* and *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* to improve protections for victim-survivors, as well as a review of Community Corrections rehabilitation programs, ongoing funding for programs focused on prevention and protection as well as increased investment in social housing.

CLC Tas is the peak body representing the interests of nine community legal centres (CLCs) located throughout Tasmania. We are a member-based, independent, not-for-profit and incorporated organisation that advocates for law reform on a range of public interest matters aimed at improving access to justice, reducing discrimination and protecting and promoting human rights.

Definition of Family Violence

The *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas) ('the Act') defines 'family violence' as conduct committed by a perpetrator against their "spouse or partner".² Spouse or partner is defined as meaning someone in a 'family relationship' and section 4 of the Act defines a 'family relationship' as:

family relationship means a marriage or a significant relationship within the meaning of the *Relationships Act 2003*, and includes a relationship in which one or both of the parties is between the ages of 16 and 18 and would, but for that fact, be a significant relationship within the meaning of that Act;

Whilst this definition includes a range of relationships it is not as broad as other Australian jurisdictions. The Tasmanian focus on spouse or partner fails to recognise some forms of intimate relationships such as adults engaged in affairs. The Tasmanian focus on spouse or partner also fails to recognise the broad range of personal relationships that are not of a

¹ CLC Tas would like to acknowledge those persons and organisations who gave freely of their time in assisting with our submission.

² Section 7(1)(a) of the *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas).

spousal relationship. A broader definition is strongly recommended because it will ensure that legal protections and support services are made to other vulnerable groups. In Victoria, for example, 'family violence' is not limited to a "spouse or partner" but also includes a broad range of relatives and family like relationships including where the parties live together, there is dependence or interdependence, or care is provided.³ This means that in Victoria adolescent violence against parents and elder abuse are covered as well as persons living in the same home, or residential facility and people reliant on care. Finally, the Victorian definition of 'family member' recognises the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander concept of kinship relationships with its inclusion of "a person who, under Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander tradition or contemporary social practice is the person's relative".⁴

A broader definition of family violence was also recognised in two recent national inquiries. In 2023, the *Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability* recommended that the definition of family and domestic violence in all Australian States and Territories should include:⁵

- all relationships in which people with disability experience family and domestic violence, including but not limited to carer and support worker relationships; and
- disability-based violence and abuse; and
- all domestic settings, including but not limited to supported accommodation such as group homes, respite centres and boarding houses.

Finally, in 2025, the Commonwealth Parliament's Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs handed down a report on family violence orders that recommended that all Australian States and Territories adopt a nationally consistent definition of family violence and allow children and young people to apply for Family Violence Orders as well as be named as protected persons on Family Violence Orders.⁶

In summary, we strongly support amending the definition of 'family violence' to include broad definitions of relatives and family like relationships as well as including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander concept of kinship.

³ Section 8(3) of the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic). Also see section 5(1)(d)-(f) of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* (NSW) which defines family violence as including a person "living or has lived in the same household as the other person", "living or has lived as a long-term resident in the same residential facility as the other person and at the same time as the other person" and "has or has had a relationship involving his or her dependence on the ongoing paid or unpaid care of the other person".

⁴ Section 10(1)(b) of the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic). Also see section 5(1)(h) of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* (NSW) which defines a 'domestic relationship' as including in the case of an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander, is or has been part of the extended family or kin of the other person according to the Indigenous kinship system of the person's culture.

⁵ Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, *Final Report: Volume 8 – Criminal Justice and People with Disability* (Report, 29 September 2023), recommendation 8.24 <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/final-report> (accessed 1 April 2026).

⁶ House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs, 'Inquiry into Family Violence Orders' (Web Page, Parliament of Australia), recommendation 3 https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs/FamilyViolenceOrders (accessed 1 April 2026).

- **Misidentification**

In December 2022, Engender Equality released a discussion paper entitled 'Misidentification of the Predominant Aggressor in Tasmania'.⁷ The report cited research from the Women's Legal Service in Victoria which found that one in ten women who were victim-survivors had been misidentified as predominant aggressors.⁸ Misidentification can be attributed to a number of factors including a lack of police training, 'systems abuse' in which the perpetrator is the first to call the police leading to an assumption that they are the victim-survivor, and assessing self-defence or retaliation as family violence.⁹ Importantly, the Engender Equality report found that one of the most significant impacts on victim-survivors in being misidentified is the loss of trust in police leading to some victim-survivors being fearful or apprehensive about calling the police for assistance.¹⁰

Children and young people are also at risk of being misidentified as the predominant aggressor, when responders such as police, fail to use a whole of family lens to keep adult perpetrated family violence in view, or preference the account of a family violence incident given by an adult over that provided by the child.¹¹ Services responses should ensure that children and young people have a private opportunity to provide an account of what happened without a parent or guardian present who may be someone who has used violence towards the child, either in the current incident or in previous incidents.

In our June 2025 submission to the draft Family Violence (Miscellaneous Reforms) Bill 2025 we expressed our support for the Government's commitment to make it easier to vary or revoke a Police Family Violence Order.¹² However, we also endorsed a recommendation from Women's Legal Service Tasmania that rather than misidentification being reviewed or revoked by a senior police officer, that an expert panel instead be appointed to review and revoke PFVO orders. The expert panel should be composed of representatives from a number of organisations including Tasmania Police, specialist family violence community service providers and the Aboriginal and CALD communities. As the WLS submission notes, "having a diversity of lens in the review process would strengthen the integrity of decision-making, decrease the errors made and avoid matters requiring judicial review before the courts".¹³

- **Recognising rights of children**

In our experience some judicial officers are reluctant to list children in a family violence order. Anecdotally, this may be because the inclusion of a child or young person in a family violence order may conflict with parenting orders agreed to in the Federal Circuit and Family

⁷ Engender Equality, 'Misidentification of the Predominant Aggressor in Tasmania' (December 2022).

⁸ Madeleine Ulbrick and Marianne Jago, "Officer she's psychotic and I need protection": Police misidentification of the 'primary aggressor in family violence incidents in Victoria' (Women's Legal Service Victoria: July 2018). As found at <https://womenslegal.org.au/files/file/WLSV%20Policy%20Brief%201%20MisID%20July%202018.pdf> (accessed 1 April 2026).

⁹ Ellen Reeves, 'The potential introduction of police-issued family violence intervention orders in Victoria, Australia: Considering the unintended consequences' (2022) 34(2) *Current Issues in Criminal Justice* 207.

¹⁰ Engender Equality, 'Misidentification of the Predominant Aggressor in Tasmania' (December 2022) at 10.

¹¹ Elena Campbell, Riley Ellard, Eliza Hew, Matilda Simpson, Beth McCann and Silke Meyer, AVITH Collaborative Practice Framework (Report, 2021). As found at <https://cij.org.au/cms/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/wrap-avith-collaborative-practice-framework.pdf> (accessed 1 April 2026).

¹² Community Legal Centres Tasmania, Submission to the Department of Justice *Family Violence (Miscellaneous Reforms) Bill 2025* (June 2025). As found at <https://www.clctas.org.au/what/reform/> (accessed 1 April 2026).

¹³ Women's Legal Service Tasmania Submission on the Family Violence (Miscellaneous Reforms) Bill 2025 (May 2025).

Court of Australia. However, section 68R of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) expressly provides Tasmanian judicial officers with the power to suspend or vary parenting orders, demonstrating that the reluctance is misplaced.

Broadening the definition of family violence to include children and young people (see above) will provide better legal protections of children and young people which should in turn increase safety. We also recommend that all judicial officers are encouraged to undertake family violence professional development.¹⁴

- ***Economic abuse***

Economic abuse is generally not well recognised as a form of family violence in the wider community with the common perception being that family violence is physical violence. As well, prosecuting authorities often focus on physical violence and ensuring that the victim-survivor's immediate safety is assured.

Although we have been unable to locate any reported case in which a perpetrator was charged with economic abuse, coercing a partner to relinquish control over assets or income is raised in family violence cases. For example, in the recent decision of *State of Tasmania v Austin Kavere Johnston*, the sentencing judge noted that the perpetrator "would not allow the complainant to have any control over finances within the relationship, including the family benefit received by her".¹⁵ Whilst the economic abuse formed only part of the perpetrator's offending, the sentencing judge convicted the perpetrator of the crime of persistent family violence and sentenced him to six years imprisonment.

Nevertheless, the lack of case law is concerning given that the Australian Bureau of Statistics has reported that one in six women and one in thirteen men have experienced economic abuse by a current or previous cohabiting partner.¹⁶

We strongly recommend an emphasis on prevention through education about healthy relationships. Continued investment in school-based programs where young people can learn about coercion, consent and how all people in a relationship should be prioritised. We also recommend that the statutory limitation period of 12 months for the offences of economic and emotional abuse should be abolished.¹⁷ Anecdotally, we are aware of a case in which a prosecution for economic abuse did not proceed due to the police investigation into the abuse taking longer than the prescribed 12 months. We strongly recommend the adoption of the New South Wales and Queensland models which do not have limitation periods for the laying of charges.¹⁸

- ***Image- and audio-based sexual abuse***

In 2017, all Australian jurisdictions agreed to the *National Statement of Principles Relating to the Criminalisation of the Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images* (the National

¹⁴ Section 7(1)(f) of the *Judicial Commissions Act 2024* (Tas) provides that the Judicial Council has a number of functions including "to provide recommendations in respect of professional development, education or training for judicial officers".

¹⁵ *State of Tasmania v Austin Kavere Johnston*, Comments on passing sentence (18 March 2026) per Jago J.

¹⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Personal Safety, Australia, 2021–22*. As found at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/2021-22> (accessed 1 April 2026).

¹⁷ Section 9A of the *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas).

¹⁸ Division 2 of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* (Qld); section 6A of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* (NSW).

Principles’).¹⁹ Following the release of the National Principles, all States and Territories except Tasmania passed legislation in relation to the distribution of image-based sexual abuse.²⁰

In Tasmania, the *Police Offences Act 1935* does provide some protection in making it an offence for a person to publish or distribute a recording made without consent and in circumstances where the person is in a private place or engaging in a private act.²¹ However, the offence does not extend to a recording made with consent but subsequently published or distributed without consent.

The Tasmania Law Reform Institute (TLRI) has recommended twice that image-based sexual abuse laws are strengthened to better protect victim-survivors. In 2017, the *Review of Privacy Laws in Tasmania* recommended the creation of offences for distributing and threatening to distribute an intimate image without consent including images created or modified through generative artificial intelligence.²² More recently, the TLRI reiterated the need to create offences to better protect against image-based sexual abuse including a review of police powers to determine whether they are adequate for investigating online offending.²³

We strongly support legislation that provides greater protection against image- and audio-based sexual abuse. We recommend that these offences should apply to both the distribution and the threat of distribution of intimate images without consent and that the offences are consistent with other Australian jurisdictions. The definition should include both intimate images and digitally created intimate images²⁴ and should also include intimate audio material.²⁵ The definition of ‘intimate image’ should provide protection for gender-diverse persons.²⁶ We recommend an affirmative consent model be adopted in which it is made clear that silence is not consent and just because a person consents to an act, such as the production of an intimate image, does not mean they have consented to the distribution of that image.²⁷ We support the NSW model in which persons under the age of 16 or with cognitive incapacity cannot provide consent.²⁸ We also support a model in which the prosecution of an accused person aged under 16 requires the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions to provide an additional safeguard for young people.²⁹ Finally, as recommended by the TLRI, police powers need to be broad enough to be able to appropriately investigate

¹⁹ Attorney-General’s Department (Cth), *National Statement of Principles Relating to the Criminalisation of the Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images* (2017) <https://www.ag.gov.au/crime/publications/national-statement-principles-relating-criminalisation-non-consensual-sharing-intimate-images> (accessed 1 April 2026).

²⁰ In Tasmania, the Civil Digital Communications Bill 2017 was introduced but did not proceed beyond a first reading.

²¹ Sections 13A-13C of the *Police Offences Act 1935* (Tas).

²² Tasmania Law Reform Institute, *Review of Privacy Law In Tasmania* (TLRI, Final Report No. 33: May 2024), recommendation 61.

²³ Tasmania Law Reform Institute, *An Evaluation of Youth Justice Responses to Allegations of Sexual Offending by Young People* (TLRI, Research Paper No. 10: January 2026), recommendations 3-4.

²⁴ See, for example, section 53R of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) which makes it an offence to produce an intimate image with ‘produce’ defined as including “digitally creating the image”.

²⁵ In NSW, for example, definitions of ‘intimate audio material’ and ‘intimate image material’ are provided: section 91N of the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW).

²⁶ In Victoria, section 53O of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) defines an ‘intimate image’ as depicting “if a person is female, or a transgender or intersex person identifying as female, the breasts of the person”. Also see definition of ‘private parts’ in section 91N of the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW).

²⁷ Section 53P of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic).

²⁸ Section 91O of the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW).

²⁹ Section 53W of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic).

image- and audio-based sexual abuse as well as providing judicial officers with the power to dispose of intimate images.³⁰

- Rehabilitation Programs

Ensuring an appropriate legal response to family violence once it occurs is important, however prevention must be a higher priority. Unless we get better at preventing family violence from occurring in the first place, our communities and support systems will continue to be overwhelmed. According to data provided by Tasmania Police, the number of reportable family violence incidents has increased by 65 per cent over the last five years, with Tasmania Police being called to 18 family violence incidents every day in 2024/25. Over the same time frame, the number of family violence orders issued have increased by 48 per cent and breaches have more than doubled (111 per cent). Finally, the number of Police Family Violence Orders (PFVOs) has increased by 40 per cent and breaches of PFVOs have increased by 57 per cent.

Family Violence Incidents

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
No. of Family Violence Incidents	3936	4233	4680	5363	6488

Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, *Corporate Performance Report 2020/21 – 2024/25*

Family Violence Orders Issued

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
No. of Family Violence Orders Issued	1534	1628	1683	1921	2270

Source: Magistrates Court of Tasmania, *Annual Report 2024-2025*

Breach of Family Violence Orders

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-3	2023-24	2024-25
Breach of Family Violence Orders	720	831	1023	1129	1518

Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, *Corporate Performance Report 2020/21 – 2024/25*

Police Family Violence Orders Issued

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Police Family Violence Orders Issued	1936	1936	2098	2404	2717

Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, *Corporate Performance*

³⁰ Section 53X of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic).

Breach of Police Family Violence Orders

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Breach of Police Family Violence Orders	848	961	948	1165	1331

Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, *Corporate Performance Report 2020/21 – 2024/25*

It would be expected that an increase in reportable family violence incidents has seen a concomitant increase in rehabilitation program participants. However, the data provided below highlights that a 65 per cent increase in reported family violence incidents over the last five years has been accompanied by a 55 per cent *decline* in perpetrators commencing the family violence rehabilitation programs currently offered through Community Corrections (FVOIP + EQUIPS) and a 65 per cent *decline* in completions. Expressed in another way, there were *fewer* perpetrators commencing and completing rehabilitation programs through Community Corrections in 2024/25 than 2020/21 despite the number of reportable family violence incidents over the same timeframe having increased by 65 per cent.

Family Violence Offender Intervention Program (FVOIP)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Commenced	85	115	62	54	68
Completed	41	73	35	39	26

Source: Tasmanian Department of Justice, *Annual Reports 2021/22 – 2024/25*

EQUIPS programs suite (including addiction, aggression, and domestic and family violence program)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Commenced	97	65	52	22	13
Completed	60	38	29	11	9

Source: Tasmanian Department of Justice, *Annual Reports 2021/22 – 2024/25*

If government staffing or funding of Community Corrections has been reduced, we strongly recommend that investment is increased, as a failure to invest in rehabilitation means that family violence is likely to continue to be perpetrated. However, if there has been a high turnover of staff or alternatively staffing/funding has remained steady, we strongly recommend that a review of processes and staffing within Community Corrections takes place.

Tasmania’s data can be contrasted with Victoria, where the number of perpetrators completing family violence rehabilitation programs has almost doubled over the last five years. In 2024/25, 8 out of 100 perpetrators who were sentenced to rehabilitation completed their course. In Tasmania by contrast, successful completions have worsened over the last five years with less than half of all commencements successfully completing their course. In 2024/25, 4 out of 10 perpetrators who were sentenced to rehabilitation completed their course. Again, if funding has remained steady, we strongly recommend that a review of processes and staffing within Community Corrections takes place.

**Completion rate – Community Corrections Family Violence Rehabilitation Programs
Tasmania v Victoria**

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Tasmania	55%	62%	56%	65%	43%
Victoria	42.5%	67.7%	83.7%	81%	84.2%

Source: Tasmanian Department of Justice, *Annual Reports 2021/22 – 2024/25*;
Department of Justice and Community Safety Annual Reports 2021/22 – 2024/25

One explanation for the lack of program offerings and completions may be staff workloads with the most recent Productivity Commission *Report on Government Services* noting that in Victoria, the community corrections offender-to-staff ratio is 8.2 whereas in Tasmania it is more than double at 18.8.³¹ As the following graph demonstrates, the offender-to-staff ratio in Victoria has been low and relatively steady over the last five years whereas in Tasmania it has been consistently high and getting worse.

Community Corrections offender-to-staff ratio

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Tasmania	15.2	14.7	15.2	16	18.8
Victoria	7.0	8.3	8.1	7.3	8.2

Source: Productivity Commission, *Report on Government Services 2026: Corrective Services*, Table 8A.9

In Tasmania’s Risdon Prison there are significantly more persons engaged with family violence rehabilitation programs than with Community Corrections, with a doubling of enrolments in just two years:³²

Dates	Programs	Progression of Programs	No
1 July 2024 – 30 March 2025	Family Violence Program Equips Foundation Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Making Changes Program Resilience Program	Enrolled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed • Participating • Not completed 	147 87 25 35
1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024	Family Violence Prevention Program Equips Foundation Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Resilience Program	Enrolled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed • Participating • Not completed 	141 84 50 7
1 July 2022 – 31 March 2023	Family Prevention Program Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Resilience Program	Enrolled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed • Participating • Not completed 	65 12 35 18

³¹ Productivity Commission, ‘Report on Government Services 2024: Corrective Services’, *Report on Government Services* (Web Page, 2024) <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/justice/corrective-services/> (accessed 1 April 2026).

³² Correspondence received from Laura Michaelson, A/Assistant Director, Intervention and Reintegration Services with the Tasmanian Prison Service on 19 June 2025.

Nevertheless, with the Australian Bureau of Statistics reporting that 29 per cent of Tasmania's prison population were imprisoned for acts intending to causing injury,³³ it is arguable that more could be done with 18 per cent of Tasmania's prison population having been enrolled in a family violence rehabilitation program in 2024/25 and 11 per cent having completed the program.

- ***Ensuring that more perpetrators engage in rehabilitation***

More than half of all family violence orders are issued by the police (55 per cent). However, there is no legislative power for police family violence orders to include perpetrator rehabilitation.³⁴ Family violence orders issued by the Magistrates Court on the other hand, can include a requirement that perpetrators engage in rehabilitation.³⁵

A hybrid model that should be considered is found in some other Australian jurisdictions. In Queensland for example, a police protection notice is issued,³⁶ which must then be heard before a Magistrate within 14 days with the notice able to be turned into a protection order.³⁷ An intervention order requiring the perpetrator to engage with a rehabilitation program or a counsellor can then be ordered as part of the protection order.³⁸

Similarly, in South Australia a police officer can issue an interim intervention order.³⁹ The interim intervention order requires the defendant to appear before the Court at a specified time and place within 8 days after the date of the order.⁴⁰ At the hearing, the court can then confirm the interim intervention order as a final intervention order.⁴¹ Conditions of an intervention order may require a perpetrator to undertake an intervention program which includes supervised treatment, supervised rehabilitation, supervised behaviour management, supervised access to support services or a combination of any 1 or more of the above.⁴²

The Queensland and South Australian models are preferred because it is likely to result in more perpetrators receiving the intervention they need. Other advantages include that there is less onus on victim-survivors to make applications to vary police family violence orders, and an opportunity exists to clarify orders which in turn should result in reduced misidentification and better compliance.

- ***Better explanation of conditions of PFVOs and FVOs to both victim-survivors and perpetrator***

In Tasmania, there is no legislative requirement that a Police Family Violence Order or Family Violence Order is explained to both the victim-survivor and the perpetrator. Anecdotally, we are aware of victim-survivors and perpetrators who inadvertently breach the conditions set out in the order due to not fully understanding the conditions imposed. The lack of understanding may partly explain the high number of both PFVO and FVO breaches in

³³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Prisoners in Australia 2024/25* (December 2025). As found at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/prisoners-australia/2025> (accessed 1 April 2026).

³⁴ Section 14(3) of the *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas).

³⁵ Section 16(3)(d) of the *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas).

³⁶ Section 101 of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* (Qld).

³⁷ Section 105(2)(a) of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* (Qld).

³⁸ Section 69 of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* (Qld).

³⁹ Section 18(1) of the *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009* (SA).

⁴⁰ Section 18(3)(d) of the *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009* (SA).

⁴¹ Section 23(1a) of the *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009* (SA).

⁴² Sections 3(1) and 13 of the *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009* (SA).

Tasmania with the number of FVO breaches equivalent to two-thirds (67 per cent) of all FVOs issued and the equivalent of around half (49 per cent) of all PFVOs.⁴³

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-3	2023-24	2024-25
Police Family Violence Orders	44%	50%	45%	48%	49%
Family Violence Orders	47%	51%	61%	59%	67%

Source: Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, *Corporate Performance Report 2020-2021 - 2024-2025*

Ensuring that victim-survivors and perpetrators understand the conditions of the order is legislatively prescribed in some jurisdictions. For example, in South Australia a police officer or Magistrate must ensure that the victim-survivor and perpetrator understand the terms and effect of an intervention order:⁴⁴

17. Explanation for defendant and protected persons

An issuing authority must endeavour to ensure that the defendant and protected persons understand—

- (a) the terms and effect of an intervention order and any associated order, including, in the case of an interim intervention order, that the order acts as a summons; and*
- (b) if relevant, the effect of section 16; and*
- (c) that a protected person cannot give permission for contravention of an order, (but failure to do so will not make an order invalid)*

We strongly recommend that the issuing of either a PFVO or a FVO require a clear verbal explanation of the terms and conditions contained within the order.

- Expedite hearings

Another concern is the length of time it takes for matters to be heard before a judicial officer. While we have been unable to find any specific data for offences involving family violence, the Productivity Commission’s *Report on Government Services* notes that in 2024/25, the Supreme Court finalised only 54.9 per cent of criminal cases within 12 months and 82.4 per cent within 24 months. In the Magistrates Court, 44 per cent of criminal cases are finalised within 6 months and 72.5 per cent within 12 months.⁴⁵ The figures for both Tasmania’s Supreme and Magistrates Courts are the lowest in Australia, meaning that victim-survivors are waiting longer for justice and perpetrators longer for the rehabilitation programs they need. It is hoped that the *Review of Backlogs in the Tasmanian Court System* will provide some solutions on expediting matters before the courts including family violence matters.

⁴³ Although there were 2270 FVOs issued in 2024/25 and 1518 breaches which is 67%, it cannot be said that two-thirds of all FVOs issued resulted in breaches, as multiple breaches of the same FVO would have been committed by some perpetrators. As a result, we have said that the number of FVO breaches is equivalent to two-thirds of all FVOs issued. The same rationale applies to PFVOs.

⁴⁴ Section 17 of the *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009* (SA). Also see section 35 of the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic); sections 66-67 of the *Family Violence Act 2016* (ACT), section 110 of the *Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act 2012* (Qld); section 30(2) of the *Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007* (NT), section 8 of the *Restraining Orders Act 1997* (WA).

⁴⁵ Productivity Commission, ‘Report on Government Services 2024: Corrective Services’, *Report on Government Services* (Web Page, 2024) Table 7A.22 <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/justice/corrective-services/> (accessed 1 April 2026).

- ***Continued financial support for Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service’s Legal Officer position***

As part of the Tasmanian Government’s Supporting Diverse Communities Grant Program, the Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service received one-off funding of \$80,000 in 2025-26 to provide family violence migration legal and policy support for temporary visa holders. The funding has complemented the 250 victim-survivors the TLRS has assisted over the last two years through its Family Violence Migration Service by allowing a dedicated Legal Officer to advise Government on migration and family violence law reform. Importantly, the role has allowed the voices of migrant women to be heard in advocating for change so that they can live a life free from violence.

We strongly recommend continued funding of the Legal Policy Officer to ensure increased expertise and continued advocacy.

Improving the response to Family Violence through the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997 (Tas)*

As well as the abovementioned amendments to the *Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)*, we also strongly recommend making amendments to the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997 (Tas)* to improve Tasmania’s legislative response to family violence.

- ***Family Violence and Termination of a Residential Tenancy Agreement***

Section 17 of the *Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)* provides that if a person against whom a Family Violence Order is to be made is a tenant of residential premises occupied by a victim-survivor, a court may

- make an order to terminate the residential tenancy agreement (‘the agreement’), or
- terminate the agreement and establish a new agreement for the benefit of the victim-survivor, or
- terminate the agreement and establish a new agreement for the benefit of the person against whom the Family Violence Order is to be made.

Section 17 of the Act is supported because it allows for the expeditious grant of a Family Violence Order and the termination of an agreement in the one court proceeding. However, we believe that a tenant affected by family violence should also be able to terminate in circumstances where the perpetrator is not currently listed on the agreement, a reform already introduced in all other Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand.⁴⁶ Examples may be that a relationship has only recently commenced and both parties live in separate properties. Or, that an ex-partner has discovered where the victim-survivor is now living and the victim-survivor fears for their safety. As it stands, the court is unable to terminate the agreement where the perpetrator is not listed on the agreement.⁴⁷ Protecting victim-survivors of family violence by allowing them to terminate their lease agreement provides them with the opportunity to escape the perpetrator and allows for a fresh start. We strongly believe that

⁴⁶ Section 91V of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997 (Vic)*; section 46D of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997 (ACT)*; sections 105B and 105C of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010 (NSW)*; sections 308A and 308B of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 (Qld)*; section 92A of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999 (NT)*; section 85D of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995 (SA)*; section 71AB of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA)* and; section 56B of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1986 (NZ)*.

⁴⁷ Section 17(1A) of the *Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)* expressly provides that a court can only make an order terminating a residential tenancy agreement where “the person against whom an FVO is to be made is a tenant of residential premises occupied by an affected person...”

the same protection should be provided to victim-survivors regardless of whether the perpetrator is listed on the agreement.

We also believe that the termination of an agreement due to family violence should not be conditional on the issuing of a Family Violence Order. Anecdotally, there are few applications to terminate agreements being sought through the Act. The reasons for this are multifaceted. Some victim-survivors may not want to apply for a Family Violence Order because of the anxiety attached to having to prove in a courtroom that family violence occurred. Or, victim-survivors may be worried about antagonising the perpetrator by making them attend court. And finally, some victim-survivors may just want to vacate their home safely without the perpetrator finding out.

In the majority of Australian jurisdictions and in New Zealand, a victim-survivor⁴⁸ can serve a notice of termination on the landlord, by enclosing with the notice, written confirmation of the family violence from a ‘competent person’, usually a registered health practitioner or a social worker.⁴⁹ In most Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand, the ‘competent person’ report is not able to be challenged on the basis that the family violence did not transpire or that the victim-survivor could remain at the property, however the notice of termination is able to be challenged on procedural grounds.⁵⁰ To ensure the veracity of the report, a safeguard enacted in some jurisdictions is that penalties will apply in circumstances where false or misleading information is provided.⁵¹ Relevantly, all of the jurisdictions that allow for a notice of termination to be issued for family violence have the provisions in their residential tenancy legislation.

Amending the *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas) and the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* (Tas) to allow victim-survivors to terminate their agreement in circumstances where the perpetrator is not listed on the agreement and allowing victim-survivors to serve a notice of termination on their landlord enclosing a report from competent person would also ensure compliance with the Tasmanian Government’s 2023 commitment to “allow tenants experiencing domestic or family violence to end agreements without penalty and with a streamlined

⁴⁸ In most Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand, a victim-survivor of family violence is defined broadly to include occupants, such as an occupant daughter living with her tenant mother. See section 46D of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* (ACT); section 308B and 310 of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* (Qld); section 92A of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999* (NT); section 85D of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995* (SA) and regulation 30 of the *Residential Tenancies Regulations* (SA); section 71AB of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987* (WA) and; section 56B of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1986* (NZ).

⁴⁹ In NSW for example, a ‘competent person’ is defined as a registered health practitioner, registered social workers, prescribed employees of government agencies, employees of non-government organisations who receive government funding and provide domestic violence or sexual assault services or refuge or emergency accommodation: section 105D of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* (NSW). Note: Section 105D of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* (NSW) has not yet come into effect but was passed in October 2025 as part of the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Domestic Violence Reform) Bill 2025. Also see section 46D(3)(b)(iii) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* (ACT); regulation 37 of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Regulations 2025* (Qld); section 4A(1)(c) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999* (NT); section 71AB(2)(d) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987* (WA).

⁵⁰ Section 46L of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* (ACT); section 308H(4) of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* (Qld); section 71AC of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987* (WA) and; section 77(7B) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1986* (NZ).

⁵¹ Section 46M of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* (ACT); section 105D of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* (NSW).

process and evidence e.g. a declaration by a prescribed professional such as a doctor or support service worker”.⁵²

- **Co-tenants**

Whilst victim-survivors of family violence should be allowed to have their name removed from the agreement, co-tenants also require legislative protection. In all other Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand, after a family violence victim-survivor has moved out of the property, the co-tenant/s (if any) is informed and provided with an opportunity to either terminate the lease or continue the agreement without the family violence victim-survivor.⁵³ Recognising the financial burden imposed on co-tenant/s, in NSW and New Zealand the rent is apportioned for two weeks after the victim-survivor has terminated the agreement, providing the remaining co-tenant/s with an opportunity to find another tenant to share the property without being financially penalised.⁵⁴

- **Family Violence during a tenancy**

In Tasmania, tenants are liable “for any act or omission in relation to the premises, by a person who is lawfully on the premises as if it had been an act or omission by the tenant”.⁵⁵ The effect of this provision is that victim-survivors of family violence are often burdened with debts for which they should bear no responsibility. Debts accrued during a tenancy have flow-on effects with victim-survivors subject to bad references and unable to access alternative accommodation. We strongly recommend the adoption of the New South Wales model which recognises that a tenant should not be held vicariously responsible for the actions of a co-tenant or any other person lawfully on the premises if the act or omission amounts to family violence.⁵⁶ In circumstances, where there is a dispute, the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal is able to determine whether the conduct amounts to family violence and apportion liability.⁵⁷

- **Family Violence and Bond**

Most tenants are required to pay four weeks rent as bond at the commencement of their tenancy with the Residential Tenancy Commissioner (RTC) determining the proportion of

⁵² In August 2023, National Cabinet agreed to “harmonise and strengthen renters’ rights across Australia” including “allow tenants experiencing domestic or family violence to end agreements without penalty and with a streamlined process and evidence e.g. a declaration by a prescribed professional such as a doctor or support service worker”: Anthony Albanese, *Meeting of National Cabinet – Working together to deliver better housing outcomes* (Media Release, Prime Minister of Australia, 16 August 2023) <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/meeting-national-cabinet-working-together-deliver-better-housing-outcomes>

⁵³ Section 91V of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* (Vic); section 46D of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* (ACT); sections 105H and 104 of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* (NSW); sections 308E and 310 of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* (Qld); section 92A(4) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999* (NT); sections 85D and 89 of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995* (SA); section 71AD of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987* (WA) and; section 56B(3) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1986* (NZ).

⁵⁴ Section 105I(3) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* (NSW) providing that “For the 2 weeks immediately after the termination date in the termination notice, the tenant is not liable to pay more than the amount of rent payable under the residential tenancy agreement on the termination date divided by the number of tenants under the agreement immediately before that date”. See also section 56B(5) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1986* (NZ).

⁵⁵ Section 59 of the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* (Tas).

⁵⁶ See, for example, sections 54(1A)-(1B) and 54A of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* (NSW). See also section 188 of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* (Qld); section 12(3)(c) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999* (NT).

⁵⁷ Section 54B of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* (NSW).

the bond to be paid to the tenant and/or landlord upon the termination of the agreement.⁵⁸ However, the RTC only has one limited power in relation to the distribution of bond, namely “determining the amount, if any, of the security deposit that is to be disbursed to the owner”.⁵⁹ In practice this means that the RTC may find that the loss or damage was the result of family violence but is still legally required to have the victim-survivor’s bond paid to the landlord. A better model adopted in most Australian jurisdictions, grants the decision-maker the power to determine apportionment, including that a victim-survivor’s share of the bond be protected and the perpetrator held liable for all of the landlord’s loss and damage.⁶⁰ Broadening the powers of the RTC to allow for apportionment would better protect victim-survivors of family violence from further traumatisation and force perpetrators to confront the consequences of their actions.

- ***Blacklists and informal references***

Part 4C of the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* (Tas) regulates the use of tenancy databases (‘blacklists’) that store information about rental histories. In Tasmania, a tenant may only be blacklisted if they have breached their lease agreement and either owe money exceeding the bond or a court has terminated the tenancy because of the breach.⁶¹ A reform introduced in most Australian jurisdictions, is the legislative exclusion from blacklisting of victim-survivors of family violence. In Victoria for example, a landlord or real estate agent cannot list a tenant in a blacklist if the “breach was a result of an act or a circumstance of family violence or personal violence experienced by the person”.⁶² In 2023, the Tasmanian Government committed to law reform which would allow victim-survivors to “have their name removed from databases due to property damage caused by family or domestic violence”.⁶³ We call on the State Government to uphold its commitment and introduce this reform.

We also strongly recommend that the State Government regulate tenancy references. In our experience it is rare for owners and real estate agencies to use formal databases but rather they rely on word-of-mouth references from the prospective tenant’s former owner or real estate agency. We strongly recommend that references are only able to be provided in writing and must be compliant with a legislatively prescribed form or contain prescribed information. Prescribing forms and information are not unusual with Victoria, for example

⁵⁸ Division 3 of the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* (Tas).

⁵⁹ Section 29G(2) of the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* (Tas).

⁶⁰ See, for example, sections 91X(1) and 420A(3) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* (Vic); section 175A of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* (NSW); section 136D(3) of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* (Qld); section 89A(12) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995* (SA); section 17B(1) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987* (WA).

⁶¹ Section 48Y of the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* (Tas).

⁶² Section 439E of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* (Vic). Also see section 213A of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* (NSW); section 461(3)(b) of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* (Qld); section 134(2A) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999* (NT); section 89A(4)(d)(ii) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995* (SA); section 82J(2A)-(2B) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987* (WA). section 134(2A) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999* (NT).

⁶³ In August 2023, National Cabinet agreed to “harmonise and strengthen renters’ rights across Australia” including “allow tenants experiencing domestic or family violence to end agreements without penalty and with a streamlined process and evidence e.g. a declaration by a prescribed professional such as a doctor or support service worker”: Anthony Albanese, *Meeting of National Cabinet – Working together to deliver better housing outcomes* (Media Release, Prime Minister of Australia, 16 August 2023) <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/meeting-national-cabinet-working-together-deliver-better-housing-outcomes> (accessed 1 April 2026).

listing 25 prescribed forms⁶⁴ and Tasmania prescribing information that must be contained in Notices to Vacate and Terminate.⁶⁵ Penalties should attach to non-compliance.

- ***Discrimination against tenants subjected or exposed to family violence***

A final reform that we recommend for inclusion in the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* (Tas) is the prohibition of discrimination against prospective tenants with a family violence history (both perpetrators and victim-survivors) when they are applying for a tenancy. Such a protection would ensure that victim-survivors are not punished, and perpetrators are not left homeless. A model that should be considered is found in Western Australia:

56A. Discrimination against tenants subjected or exposed to family violence

A person must not refuse, or cause any person to refuse, to grant a tenancy to any person on the ground that the person —

(a) has been or might be subjected or exposed to family violence; or

(b) has been convicted of a charge relating to family violence.

Penalty: a fine of \$5 000.

Increased Social Housing for Victim-Survivors

According to the most recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, family violence is the most common reason provided by people seeking support from specialist homelessness services in Australia.⁶⁶ To its credit, the Tasmanian Government has recognised the need for increased housing for victim-survivors with the *Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027* observing “security of housing is a critical element that impacts on women’s ability to escape violent relationships.”⁶⁷

Data provided by Homes Tasmania demonstrates that over the last five years the number of people seeking housing support because of family violence in Tasmania has remained relatively stable (<1 per cent change):⁶⁸

Family violence indicated as a reason for seeking assistance

Family Violence Reason	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Yes	1 548	1 535	1 602	1 625	1 526
No	5 019	5 442	5 070	5 047	4 797
Total	6 567	6 977	6 672	6 672	6 323

⁶⁴ Schedule 1 of the *Residential Tenancies Regulations 2021* (Vic). Also see schedule 1 of the *Residential Tenancies Regulations 2010* (SA); schedules 1-5 of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Regulations 2025* (Qld); schedules 2-3 of the *Residential Tenancies Regulations 2000* (NT), schedule 4 of the *Residential Tenancies Regulations 1989* (WA).

⁶⁵ Sections 40 and 44 of the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* (Tas). Also see regulation 10A of the *Residential Tenancies Regulations 2000* (NT).

⁶⁶ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2024-25*. As found at <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/clients-who-have-experienced-fdsv> (accessed 1 April 2026).

⁶⁷ Department of Communities Tasmania, *Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania’s Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022–2027* (Report, 2022) https://www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au/resources-hub/fact-sheets/220157-DoC-Family-Sexual-Violence-Action-Plan-2022-27_wcag.pdf (accessed 1 April 2026).

⁶⁸ Correspondence received from Kylie Fidanza, Principal Performance Advisor with Communities Tasmania on 5 July 2021 (DR132); Kylie Fidanza, Acting Manager in Strategic Performance and Reporting with Homes Tasmania on 9 November 2023 (DR237) and Rachel Quinn, Right to Information Coordinator with Homes Tasmania on 20 November 2025 (DR341).

Worryingly, a growing number of Tasmanian victim-survivors of family violence are homeless when they request assistance with a 35 per cent increase over the last five years:

Housing status (first reported) - family violence clients

Homelessness Status	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Primary homeless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No shelter or improvised/inadequate dwelling • Other homeless 	159	166	167	189	215
Other	1 389	1 369	1 435	1 436	1 311
Total	1 548	1 535	1 602	1 625	1 526

Whilst there has been a small decrease in the number of Tasmanian victim-survivors of family violence who remain homeless after requesting assistance (from 51 per cent to 46 per cent), the improvement is offset by the small increase in the number of survivors unable to be moved into either a social housing or private rental property despite the best efforts of specialist homelessness services (from 45 per cent to 41 per cent).

Housing status (last reported) - family violence clients

Homelessness Status	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Primary homeless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No shelter or improvised/inadequate dwelling • Other homeless 	82	81	87	96	98
Secure accommodation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public or community housing • Private or other housing 	691	650	672	710	642
Other	775	804	843	819	786
Total	1 548	1 535	1 602	1 625	1 526

The lack of social housing options is compounded by the lack of affordable housing options in the private rental market with Tasmania's Rapid Rehousing program⁶⁹ currently providing homes to 42 households,⁷⁰ less than one-third of the 150 homes that were

⁶⁹ Rapid Rehousing is a program assisting people experiencing family violence to access safe and affordable housing. It provides transitional accommodation (leases up to 12 months) in the private rental market with subsidised rent. As found at <https://www.homestasmania.com.au/Private-Rental/affordable-private-rentals> (accessed 1 April 2026).

⁷⁰ Homes Tasmania, *Homes Tasmania Dashboard: January 2026*. As found at https://www.homestasmania.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/290781/Homes-Tasmania-Dashboard-January-2026.pdf (accessed 1 April 2026).

envisaged would be a part of the program⁷¹ and a significant decline in the number of properties that were part of the program in June 2023.⁷²

As well as a lack of social housing for victim-survivors, another concern is the lack of transitional housing available for victim-survivors on temporary visas. As it stands, emergency shelters are not funded to support victim-survivors on temporary visas and without income support payments many victim-survivors have nowhere to turn as the following two case studies provided by the Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service highlight.

Abigail came to Australia on a temporary working visa. She had experienced severe family violence perpetrated by her husband in her country of origin and had serious fears of ongoing violence if she returned. Abigail applied for a protection visa with the assistance of the Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service (TRLS) and was granted a temporary bridging visa while her application processed. On this bridging visa, Abigail has no working rights, no access to Centrelink or support payments and is not eligible for substantive support from many service providers due to her visa status. As she experienced family violence offshore, Abigail was also not eligible for Leaving Violence Payments (LVPs). Abigail experienced significant difficulty trying to obtain housing. As she had no income and was ineligible for Centrelink, she was not eligible for many shelters so spent many months living on the street and in unsafe arrangements. She is also ineligible for social housing due to her visa status. She is currently surviving entirely on one-off Emergency Relief payments and is vulnerable to exploitative conditions as a result of her circumstances. Abigail's protection visa application could take between 2-5 years to process. She is unsure how she will survive this timeframe without access to financial support, secure housing or support services.*

*Name has been changed

Bernadette is a woman who came to Australia on a temporary partner visa after marrying an Australian citizen. Bernadette experienced family violence throughout her marriage and fled the home. As a result of her separation, Bernadette was required to make a claim under the Family Violence Provisions to maintain her visa status in Australia. This is a complicated and traumatic process which required her to provide supporting documentation from professional support services such as doctors, psychologists and social workers. Bernadette speaks extremely limited English and is entirely reliant on interpreters to communicate. After much advocacy, Bernadette was accepted into a shelter in Tasmania despite having no income, however, is unable to stay there much longer and has no alternate housing when she leaves. She is not eligible for social housing due to her temporary visa status and is dependent on support service providers for her basic needs. She has no income, no access to Medicare or Centrelink, limited community support in Australia and no free access to English language classes. Bernadette's application may take over a year to process.*

*Name has been changed

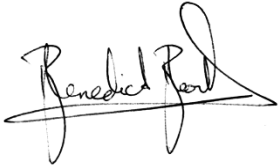
⁷¹ Felix Ellis, Minister for Housing and Planning and Madeleine Ogilvie, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence, *Expanded Family Violence Rapid Rehousing Program Protecting Women and Children* (Media Release, 11 October 2024). As found at <https://www.premier.tas.gov.au/latest-news/2024/october/expanded-family-violence-rapid-rehousing-program-protecting-women-and-children> (accessed 1 April 2026).

⁷² In October 2023, Homes Tasmania reported that 61 properties were part of the Rapid Rehousing program: Homes Tasmania, *Annual Report 2022–23* (October 2023) at 34. As found at https://www.homes.tasmania.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/273177/Homes-Tasmania-Annual-Report-2022-23.pdf (accessed 1 April 2026).

We strongly recommend increased investment in social housing as well as a commitment from the Tasmanian Government to fund emergency shelters the rent payable by victim-survivors on temporary visas.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



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