



Tasmanian
**Family and
Sexual Violence**
Alliance

September 2025

Consultation Summary Report: Shaping a peak body for family and sexual violence in Tasmania

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians and first peoples on the land on which we live, work and play in lutruwita (Tasmania). We pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, to elders past and present and to all those who continue caring for country, sharing stories and upholding rights. We acknowledge the impacts of colonisation and dispossession and the contemporary disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We also acknowledge the devastating impacts of family and sexual violence and child removal in Aboriginal communities and recognise the power of truth telling and ongoing leadership by Aboriginal communities in addressing and preventing family and sexual violence.

We acknowledge Tasmania's victim-survivors of family and sexual violence. Victim-survivors hold the insights, knowledge and expertise to inform primary prevention and systems change, and authentically embedding the lived expertise of victim-survivors is vital in addressing family and sexual violence in Tasmania. We acknowledge children and young people who are victim-survivors also hold expertise that must be valued and respected alongside that of adult victim-survivors. And we recognise the life-long impacts of trauma and acquired disability as a direct result of family and sexual violence.

About Us

The Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance (TFSVA) is the peak body for Family and Sexual Violence and represents the sector across the continuum of primary prevention, early intervention, response and healing and recovery. We amplify the voices of lived experience and practice knowledge to improve the family and sexual violence system, influence policy, and drive cultural change to end gendered violence.

Building an inclusive and dynamic family and sexual violence sector is more important now than ever. With rising rates of family and sexual violence across Tasmania, the need for collective action, collaboration, and meaningful change has never been clearer. The Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance (TFSVA) is committed to bringing the sector together, ensuring that all voices -particularly those of victim-survivors -are heard, valued, and central to the work we do.

We are focused on implementing the insights and feedback provided by the sector and victim-survivors, recognising that their lived experience and expertise are at the heart of effective solutions. We aim to create a peak body that reflects the diversity, knowledge, and passion of those impacted by and working to end family and sexual violence in Tasmania.

To shape the peak body, extensive consultations with the sector and victim-survivors have been conducted throughout 2024 and 2025. This report brings together a summary of these consultations, highlighting the key themes that have emerged and demonstrating how feedback is being incorporated into the establishment of TFSVA, its operations, and governance structures. It reflects our commitment to designing a peak body that meets the expectations of the sector and victim-survivors.

Bree Klerck

Chief Executive Officer

Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance

Consultation outcomes at a glance

Peak body representation and membership

What participants value:

- Broad inclusion across prevention, early intervention, response and recovery.
- Importance of ensuring intersectionality and inclusion of voices of marginalised groups.

How feedback is shaping the peak body:

A tiered membership framework has been integrated into the constitution, welcoming individuals and organisations working across the continuum of prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery. An advisory group has been established to determine eligibility standards for full membership. Implementation of the TFSVA's Lived Experience Engagement Framework is now underway, alongside the development of an Aboriginal Community Engagement Strategy, ensuring inclusive representation across all our work.

Board composition of the peak body

What participants value:

- TFSVA Board composition that has a mix of skills and representation
- Ensuring the board composition has representation from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and Victim-Survivors.

How feedback is shaping the peak body:

A Governance Committee has been established to oversee the review of the [TFSVA Constitution](#) and board composition, ensuring meaningful representation of victim-survivors and Tasmanian Aboriginal people at the governance level. Board recruitment is now underway under our revised constitution, prioritising diverse representation and a strategic mix of expertise that reflects the communities we serve.

Governance model/structure of the peak body

What participants value:

- Views on a combined family and sexual violence peak body or two separate peak bodies were split.
- Slightly more support for one peak with distinct streams.
- Broad support for balancing efficiencies and different priorities.

How feedback is shaping the peak body:

TFSVA has commissioned policy work examining the links between child sexual abuse and family violence, informing our submission to the Tasmanian Parliament's Joint Sessional Committee on the Commission of Inquiry recommendations. A combined Peak Body Governance Model has been proposed that balances dedicated family and sexual violence streams with strategic collaboration opportunities and supported by continuous review to ensure the model delivers meaningful outcomes for stakeholders.

Role of the peak body

What participants value:

- Intersectional approach to advocacy
- Policy, system and law reform
- Sector coordination and collaboration
- Lived experience integration
- Capacity building and professional development
- Data and evidence

How feedback is shaping the peak body:

Intersectional principles are embedded within [TFSVA's constitution](#), fundamentally shaping our values and organisational culture. The combined Peak Body Governance Model is designed to strengthen networks, advisory groups, and communities of practice, driving enhanced collaboration, capacity building, and policy influence. TFSVA's policy work will be guided by an annual policy and advocacy strategy, co-developed with victim-survivors and full members, and responsive to the current reform agenda.

Policy consultation methods and practice

What participants value:

- Inclusive and diverse representation
- Combined peak body but with separate priorities
- Evidence based and informed
- Multiple engagement methods
- Trauma-informed practices
- Regional considerations
- Addressing power dynamics and unconscious bias
- Lived experience led

How feedback is shaping the peak body:

TFSVA will collaborate with members to develop a Policy Consultation Framework that ensures inclusive, trauma-informed, and evidence-based policy development. Our policy advice and solutions will be grounded in research, lived experience, and practice knowledge. We are committed to actively engaging communities through accessible, trauma-informed, and lived experience-led processes that guide all our policy and advocacy work.

Peak body membership services

What participants value:

- Professional development and training
- Information sharing
- Networking and collaboration
- Advocacy and policy
- Resource sharing and coordination
- Consultation and participation
- Community engagement

How feedback is shaping the peak body:

In November 2025, we will launch our membership program, delivering an initial suite of member benefits including communities of practice, a dedicated member portal, and networking opportunities designed to foster connection and knowledge sharing. We are creating meaningful policy and advocacy opportunities for full members and individual victim-survivor members, ensuring their voices actively influence systemic change.

2024 Consultations

In 2024, the former Steering Committee auspice under TasCOSS undertook consultations with victim-survivor representatives and Tasmanian community sector representatives from both specialist and generalist services. The consultation involved a preliminary planning workshop conducted in April 2024, a follow up survey conducted in May 2024 and a subsequent survey conducted in August 2024. A summary of responses to the surveys are reflected below:

Q. In considering a broad representation for the Alliance what/who do you think should be included?

Respondents emphasised broad inclusion across the continuum of prevention, early intervention, response and recovery, and expanding representation to all services that work with victim-survivors. Strong calls were made for intersectionality and representation of marginalised groups.

“It’s important to ensure that the representation provides broad coverage across the continuum... from prevention/early intervention, direct intervention and support.”

“Ensure all minority group representation, e.g. CALD, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, LGBTQI+.”

“Specialist organisations. General organisations who have specialist teams or workers... Government and non-government representatives. Academics/researchers in the field. People with lived experience.”

Q. What do you think is the best / most appropriate membership model?

Responses were mixed, with some respondents suggesting voting rights should sit with family and sexual violence services, while associates and individual members could have non-voting roles. Some called for broad inclusivity and lived experience voting rights.

“Voting board members and sector members and non-voting affiliates.”

“Whichever model is going to encourage the broadest range of membership from a wide range of different organisations.”

“Need Lived Experience Voice”

Q. Do you prefer a skills-based or representative Board model?

Preferences were divided, with most supporting a hybrid of skills-based and representative boards. It was highlighted that skills are necessary for governance, while representation ensures connection to the sector and lived experience.

"I feel a mixture of representatives and skills-based would be a better option. There needs to be lived experience of victim-survivors as well as skilled people."

"A skills-based board would provide sustainability."

"In reality it needs both. But representative will increase relevant voices."

Q. What alternative approaches could be considered when forming the Board?

Respondents suggested subcommittees (for example - lived experience, sector representation sub-committees), succession training, and independent selection to balance skills and representation.

"Skills-based board with committee representation from lived experience and/or sector."

"Opportunities for training and development for those who may be otherwise excluded from a Board (for example, young people)."

"A skills-based board with a representative subcommittee, and one or two people from that subcommittee sitting on the main board."

Q. Do you support one 'peak' organisation or two separate 'peaks'?

Recommendation 21.3 of Commission of Inquiry report identifies the need for a separate sexual assault peak body, whilst Action 14 of the third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan indicates a joint family and sexual violence peak. In response to whether there should be one peak or two separate peaks - views were split - one peak with two distinct brands/streams was the most common suggestion, alongside balancing efficiency with recognition of distinct needs. Concerns focused on child sexual abuse being overshadowed under broader family violence.

"Tasmania is small... it seems wasteful to establish two and use scarce money to fund two entire infrastructures."

"Experience tells me that sexual violence, particularly child sexual abuse, gets minimised when lumped in under the banner of DFSV."

"One consolidated voice would be stronger... one peak ensures there is no competition between the brands."

"Family and sexual violence includes children who have witnessed or experienced family violence, it is impossible to separate the needs of children from the support to the parent."

"Children's voices and experience often get lost or become secondary to adult experiences."

Q. What alternative approaches to 1 peak or 2 peaks could be considered?

Hybrid and hosted models were proposed – for example, one entity with two arms, hosted within an existing peak for back-of-house efficiencies, or two peaks with structured collaboration.

“One peak with two arms – separate groups within it who have knowledge and expertise of the two issues.”

“Working separately together – separate peaks with quarterly single peak meetings to ensure shared goals.”

“Host the peak within similar peak organisations that provide back-of-house support and reduce duplication in overheads.”

2025 Consultations

In July and August 2025, the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance (TFSVA) undertook further consultations across the state to deepen our understanding of broader sector expectations for the peak body, explore what makes membership meaningful, and clarify how stakeholders wish to engage in policy consultations.

We heard from over 110 participants across Tasmania, including government and non-government service providers and victim survivors.

Overall, feedback highlighted that stakeholders hold high expectations for the peak body’s role in strengthening the family and sexual violence (FSV) system - across prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery.

A thematic analysis of the collated raw consultation findings across the state provides insight into the following key elements in establishing the peak body.

Sector expectations on the role of the FSV peak body

Participants were asked about their expectations of what activities and functions a peak body for the family and sexual violence sector should engage in. Responses to the question indicated that the sector expects TFSVA to lead policy and system reform through an intersectional lens, analysing existing systems and advocating for legislative improvements while ensuring meaningful participation from victim-survivors. Stakeholders want the peak body to coordinate and strengthen the sector by facilitating collaboration between government and non-government services, providing capacity building and professional development opportunities and contributing to the evidence base through research and data collection to inform better responses to family and sexual violence.

Summary of key themes:

- Intersectional Approach to Advocacy - Ensuring equitable representation, advocacy and policy development through working within an intersectional approach
- Policy, System and Law Reform - Analysing policies and strategies, and advocating for legislative and policy improvements
- Sector Coordination and Collaboration - Bringing together organisations and facilitating cooperation across government and non-government services
- Lived Experience Integration - Ensuring victim-survivors have meaningful input and leadership roles
- Capacity Building and Professional Development - facilitation of professional development opportunities and building best practice to strengthen sector capabilities and standards
- Data and Evidence - contributing to building evidence through research and data collection

Sector expectations on policy consultation and representation:

In understanding stakeholder expectations on policy consultation and representation, participants were provided with policy scenarios to consider approaches to equitably represent the sector in policy and advocacy.

Feedback indicates that the sector expects TFSVA to ensure inclusive and diverse representation in policy consultations, with specific attention to Aboriginal communities, CALD communities, LGBTQIA+ people, and people with disabilities, while using multiple engagement methods and trauma-informed practices to reach all Tasmanian regions safely and accessibly. Stakeholders stressed that consultations must be evidence-based and informed by practitioners and victim-survivor expertise, with lived experience advocates having opportunities to lead engagement processes.

There's a strong expectation that TFSVA will address power dynamics and unconscious bias in consultation processes, moving away from hierarchical top-down models to ensure meaningful participation and giving back to those who contribute their time and expertise. Additionally, there was advice from the sector that family and sexual violence is interconnected with many services working across both areas.

Summary of key themes:

- Inclusive and Diverse Representation - Ensuring all communities are meaningfully included, with specific attention to Aboriginal communities, CALD communities, LGBTQIA+ people, and people with disabilities

- Combined but with separate priorities - Recognising the interconnection between family and sexual violence and child sexual abuse but ensuring equity of priorities between both specialist areas.
- Evidence based and informed - Using data and evidence to guide engagement and the centering expertise of practitioners and victim-survivors
- Multiple Engagement Methods - Recognising people need different ways to participate, from online platforms to face-to-face meetings, with strong accessibility considerations
- Trauma-Informed Practices - Prioritising safety and preventing re-traumatisation through ethical engagement approaches
- Regional Considerations - Reaching all areas and communities in Tasmania, and leveraging existing networks to support this
- Addressing Power Dynamics and Unconscious Bias - Recognising power, privilege and bias and how these affect engagement processes, ensuring that these are addressed through giving back to participants, meaningful engagement and challenging hierarchical top-down models
- Lived Experience Led - Opportunities for lived experience advocates to lead consultation and engagement

Sector expectations on membership services:

Consultation participants were provided with an overview of the membership levels and eligibility criteria outlined in the TFSVA constitution and based on feedback from consultations undertaken in 2024. Participants were invited to consider what would make membership meaningful.

Participants indicated professional development and training opportunities, including communities of practice, alongside information sharing mechanisms that deliver timely updates and access to latest research. Participants wanted strong networking and collaboration opportunities through events and regional meetings, coupled with collective advocacy and policy representation that includes mechanisms for raising issues and monitoring reform implementation. There's also an expectation for resource sharing and coordination to avoid duplication, meaningful participation in working groups and policy development, and community engagement opportunities that extend beyond the specialist sector to include community allies and existing networks.

Summary of key themes:

- Professional Development and Training - Expectations for learning opportunities, from specialised training to communities of practice and workforce standards
- Information Sharing - Comprehensive information sharing mechanisms with emphasis on relevant, timely updates and research access

- Networking and Collaboration - Strong focus on connecting services through events, regional meetings, and collaborative opportunities
 - Advocacy and Policy - Collective representation and system-level advocacy, with mechanisms for raising issues and monitoring implementation of reforms
 - Resource Sharing and Coordination - emphasis on avoiding duplication, bringing existing best practice resources together, and directory of services
 - Consultation and Participation - Meaningful involvement in working groups, policy development and research
 - Community Engagement - Opportunities to engage members beyond the specialist sector, supporting community allies and engagement with existing networks and community groups
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Next steps

Informed by our consultations, we've commenced the development of a representative and inclusive peak body for the family and sexual violence sector in Tasmania, including the embedding of a tiered membership framework across the continuum of prevention, early intervention, response and recovery. We've commenced implementation of our Lived Experience Engagement Framework alongside the development of an Aboriginal Community Engagement Strategy, and strengthened our governance by revising our constitution, ensuring victim-survivor and Tasmanian Aboriginal representation on our board.

Looking ahead, we will continue to embed intersectional principles, advance evidence-informed policy and advocacy, and establish inclusive consultation frameworks that reflect lived experience, research, and practice knowledge. In November 2025, we will also commence our membership program, offering communities of practice, networking opportunities, a member portal, and pathways for victim-survivors to participate in leadership and advocacy.

This work is the result of the insight, expertise, and commitment of all consultation participants, to whom we extend our sincere thanks. As we move into our next phase, we look forward to inviting individuals and organisations across the sector to join us as members - to strengthen connections, amplify lived experience, and drive meaningful change for victim-survivors and communities across Tasmania.
