

Media Release

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Tasmania Launches First Family and Sexual Violence Alliance

Tasmania marked a historic and deeply significant moment on November 25, with the launch of the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance (TFSVA) — the first of its kind in the state. The launch signals a powerful statewide commitment to confronting family violence, sexual violence, child maltreatment and child sexual abuse.

Born from a key recommendation of the Tasmanian Governments Action Plan: *Survivors at the Centre*, the TFSVA brings together organisations, community leaders, experts and victim-survivors in a united effort to drive long overdue systemic change. The launch drew strong cross-party political support and the Hon. Jane Howlett MP, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence acknowledged the importance of the Alliance. “*The Alliance is already playing a critical role*” the Minister said, noting the Tasmanian Government’s ongoing investment in its work.

A Moving Panel: Survivors at the Centre – Centering Principles, Practice and Lived Experience

A key feature of the launch was an insightful and heartfelt panel discussion titled ‘Survivors at the Centre – Centering Principles, Practice and Lived Experience’, featuring Shannon D; Jayla Sainty; Sam Leishman and Dr Lucy Mercer-Mapstone.

The panel, facilitated by TFSVA’s inaugural CEO Bree Klerck, explored the critical role of lived experience in driving meaningful and embedded change, emphasising that real transformation can only occur when victim-survivors’ voices shape the systems designed to support them. Their reflections grounded the event in courage, truth-telling and hope.

Confronting a Crisis

Tasmania is in the midst of a family and sexual violence crisis.

- Family violence has increased nearly 75%
- Sexual violence has risen more than 180%

These figures represent thousands of lives impacted — overwhelmingly women, children and young people — and they underscore the urgency of coordinated statewide action.

The TFSVA will work across primary prevention, early intervention, response, and healing and recovery, bringing together community organisations, practitioners, advocates and — critically — victim-survivors, who are central to its purpose.

A Call to Stand Together

Membership of the Alliance is now open, and organisations and individuals across Tasmania are urged to apply at www.tfsva.org.au/membership and stand together in this collective mission. Victim-survivors are warmly encouraged to join free of charge, ensuring their leadership and insight guide the path forward.

“Today marks a historic moment for Tasmania,” said CEO Bree Klerck. “We’re building on the leadership within the sector and the tenacity of victim-survivors who have continued to push for change. The Alliance shows our collective voice and our collective strength. This is how systems change.”

She continued: “We’re working towards a Tasmania where every person experiences safety, dignity and agency — a Tasmania free from family and sexual violence. We will keep raising the voices that must be heard the loudest — victim-survivors — and we will keep gendered violence on the agenda until it ends.”

Tasmanians can stay connected and follow the TFSVA’s work on Facebook and Instagram, with updates on advocacy, events and opportunities to get involved.

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