

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**May 2026**

### **We acknowledge this week - and the impact on the community**

As Tasmania's peak body for family and sexual violence, we recognise that many in our community are grieving and unsettled this week. For many women and children currently experiencing or having experienced violence, this week may feel particularly distressing.

Our role as the peak body is to drive system improvement - strengthening prevention, early intervention, response and recovery across the full continuum. We have heard consistently from our members that demand across Tasmania's family and sexual violence sector is exceeding capacity. Services are operating with waitlists, and frontline workers are carrying unsustainable workloads.

Bree Klerck, CEO of the Alliance, said:

*"Workers are carrying more than any system should expect, and women are being told to wait at the very moment they need support most. Sustained investment across prevention, early intervention, response and recovery is essential to reduce harm and support safety."*

We also know the current system does not reach everyone.

The Alliance's recent survey of victim-survivors found that only 58% of respondents felt capable and safe enough to report their experience of family violence to police. People living in regional and remote areas also experience geographic and social isolation, which can limit access to support. This highlights the importance of continuing to strengthen formal responses, while ensuring there are multiple, accessible pathways to safety.

Ms Klerck said:

*"When many victim-survivors do not feel safe or capable of reporting violence to police, we need to acknowledge that parts of the system are not working for everyone."*

Family and sexual violence remains widespread. Nationally, around 1 in 4 women (27%) have experienced violence by an intimate partner or family member since the age of 15.<sup>[i]</sup> More than 1 in 3 Australian men (35%) aged 18 - 65 report having used intimate partner violence in their lifetime.<sup>[ii]</sup> In 2025, 28 women in Australia were killed by a current or former intimate partner.<sup>[iii]</sup> Behind each of these deaths is a family, a community, and a system that did not reach them in time.

This reflects a broader, systemic issue requiring a coordinated, long-term response.

We also know that Aboriginal women and children experience disproportionate impacts of family and sexual violence. The drivers include colonisation, systemic racism, and intergenerational trauma. Effective responses must be led by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and supported by direct, sustained investment - including

through the implementation of Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026–2036.

Every woman, child and young person deserves to feel safe, supported and well in their own home and community.

The Alliance stands with victim-survivors, with communities affected by violence, and with the workforce carrying this work every day. We remain committed to strengthening systems, expanding pathways to safety, and preventing violence before it occurs.

The Alliance is calling on the Tasmanian Government to ensure funding meets demand. We also call on government to continuously improve and transform systems that are not consistently meeting the needs of women and children.

— **ENDS** —

***Support numbers:***

If you are in immediate danger, please call Triple Zero (000).

- For family violence support call Family Violence Counselling and Support Service (FVCSS) 1800 608 122.
- For 24-hour sexual assault support call 1800 697 877 (1800 MY SUPPORT).
- If you are worried about your behaviour, please call the MENS program on 1300 364 277.

***Guidelines for reporting on violence against women:***

- <https://assets.ourwatch.org.au/assets/Media-resources/National-reporting-guidelines.pdf>

---

<sup>[i]</sup> **ABS Personal Safety Survey, 2021–22**

<sup>[ii]</sup> **Australian Institute of Family Studies, Ten to Men, The use of intimate partner violence among Australian men, 2025**

<sup>[iii]</sup> **Australian Government, Status of Women Report Card, March 2026**