

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**May 2026**

### **Tasmania marks Family Violence Awareness Month amid ongoing crisis**

May marks Family Violence Awareness Month, a time for communities across Tasmania to come together, reflect, and take action to prevent family violence.

The Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance (TFSVA) is encouraging all Tasmanians to get involved in events happening across the state throughout the month. A full list of events can be found on the TFSVA website: [Events & Training Archive - Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance](#).

Tasmania is in the midst of a family violence crisis and continues to face some of the highest rates of family violence in the country:

- Reports of family violence have increased by nearly 75%
- Sexual violence has risen more than 180%

These figures reflect not only increased reporting, but the scale and seriousness of violence experienced in our communities.

Prevention is a task for the whole community.

Bree Klerck, CEO of the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance, said ending family violence requires a collective response.

“The government, the specialist sector and the Alliance are all working hard to end family violence, but we can’t do it alone. This is a pandemic that needs a whole-of-community response. One in three women have experienced physical violence, and one in five women have experienced economic abuse. That is someone you know — this affects everyone.”

“A great first step for the community is understanding what family violence actually is — how it presents, what the signs are, and what you can do to change the culture that makes it acceptable. Education is the key to prevention.”

As part of Family Violence Awareness Month, three candlelight vigils will be held across Tasmania on 6 May to remember and honour those who have lost their lives, and those who continue to be impacted by family violence.

Community members are invited to attend:

- North: Civic Square (near Library), Launceston | 5:30 – 6:00pm



- North West: Gnomon Pavilion, Ulverstone Wharf | 6:00 – 6:30pm
- South: Parliament Lawns, Nipaluna/Hobart | 5:30 – 6:00pm

These vigils provide an opportunity for communities to come together in reflection, solidarity, and commitment to change.

TFSVA acknowledges the strength of victim-survivors and the work of services and communities across Tasmania who continue to respond to and prevent violence every day.

Now is the time for all Tasmanians to be part of the solution.

**ENDS**