



Women's Health Tasmania

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Women's Health Tasmania 2022/2023 Budget Priorities Statement

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Women's Health Tasmania (WHT) provides health promotion and health services to Tasmanian women. It is a charity largely funded by the Tasmanian Department of Health. WHT's work is focussed on increasing the range of services to women vulnerable to inequitable health outcomes. This is done through health promotion initiatives, the delivery of allied health services and advocating for evidence-based best practice service delivery. Through our work we encounter many women who are the victim survivors of family violence and see the long term effects this has on their health.

This submission

This submission has been written in support of the TasCOSS submission for funds for a Family/Sexual Violence Policy Development and Sector Coordination role for the Tasmanian community services sector.

The Tasmanian Government has demonstrated its commitment to addressing family violence against women through successive statewide strategic plans. A missing part of the response has been, and remains, resourcing for a peak body role for those community services working with family/sexual assault victim survivors. Tasmania the only jurisdiction in Australia without a peak body or dedicated resources within a peak body committed to this important, technical and specialist area of work.

Currently services struggle to find the policy capacity to respond to requests for input to legislative and policy reform agendas and no one body has resources the coordinate a response. TasCOSS has worked to provide this role, but has been limited by the resources available.

In 2021 TasCOSS was approached by Women's Health Tasmania and other services in the women's services sector about the need to increase peak capacity in this area. TasCOSS undertook further consultation with the sector on this issue and what a model for this extra capacity should look like. Women's Health Tasmania is fully supportive of the proposed model which emerged from that engagement and consultation process.

A Development and Coordination role within TasCOSS specialising in family and sexual violence will allow the sector to provide consistent, robust and evidence-based feedback on the development, monitoring and success of Government initiatives to stop gender-based violence. It will increase the chance of positive policy outcomes and ultimately it will save lives.

The funding request for this is \$834,000 over five years.

The position would be based at TasCOSS.

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