



Submission to the Third Tasmanian Family and Sexual  
Violence Action Plan  
May 2022

For more information in relation to this submission, please contact:  
Yemaya Women's Support Service  
(03) 6334 0305  
[admin@yemaya.com.au](mailto:admin@yemaya.com.au)

## Contents

Acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.....	2
Acknowledgement of Victims and Survivors.....	2
About Yemaya Women’s Support Service.....	3
Key Terminology.....	4
Introduction .....	5
An Integrated Primary Prevention Strategy .....	6
Misidentification of Victim-Survivors as Perpetrators .....	7
Housing and Homelessness.....	8
Expansion of Family Violence Outreach Services .....	9
Child Safety Service’s Engagement with Perpetrators.....	10
A Tasmanian Family Violence Peak Body.....	11
Conclusion.....	11
Summary of Recommendations .....	12

## Acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Yemaya acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nations and Traditional Owners of Country. We acknowledge the ancient history of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the First People of lutriwita. For over 2,000 generations, the health and well-being of Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples has been and continues to be based on a deep and continuous connection to family, community and the land, sea, and waterways. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded and pay our respect to the Elders past, present and emerging.

## Acknowledgement of Victims and Survivors

Yemaya acknowledges the strength and resilience of adults, children and young people who have experienced family violence and recognise that it is essential that responses to family violence are informed by their expert knowledge and advocacy. We pay respects to those who did not survive and acknowledge friends and family members who have lost loved ones to this preventable and far-reaching issue.

## About Yemaya Women's Support Service

Yemaya Women's Support Service (Yemaya) is a specialist family violence service that has been providing support to women in Northern Tasmania since 1992. Direct service delivery includes specialist trauma-informed counselling, group work, information provision, advocacy and referral for all women who have experienced abuse and violence within intimate partner relationships. Yemaya further engages in community development through community liaison and education and service networking and partnerships. Yemaya holds a central position in the Northern Tasmanian family violence response system as the local specialist therapeutic recovery service. Yemaya's subject matter expertise and sector leadership is reflected in our key role as Chair of the Northern Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee.

### Yemaya's Mission

- To provide a safe therapeutic space for women who are experiencing or have experienced intimate partner abuse.
- To work with other services to address the harm caused by violence, inequity and power differentials and create real change.

Yemaya's understanding of intimate partner violence is grounded within a feminist framework and is defined as an expression of power, by men towards women, within a patriarchal society. Trauma-informed practice ensures that our services are safe and not retraumatising for women.

## Key Terminology

### Family Violence

We recognise that in other jurisdictions, family violence is defined as any violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour that occurs in current or past family, domestic or intimate relationships. This can include abuse within a broader family context, extended families, kinship networks and ‘family-like’ relationships.<sup>1</sup>

Yemaya’s core focus is to support all women who have experienced intimate partner abuse, and so for our purposes, we define family violence as any violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour that occurs in intimate relationships. It may consist of isolated incidents or patterns of behaviours over time that aim to control a partner or former partner through violence, coercion, threats, or control. This includes physical, sexual, financial, psychological, social, spiritual, and cyber and technology-based abuse. It also includes the threatening of abuse, or any other behaviours that cause the partner or former partner to feel fear for their safety, the safety of another person or an animal. In relation to children, family violence is defined as behaviour by any person that causes a child to hear or witness or otherwise be exposed to the effects of the above behaviour.

### Victim-Survivor

Yemaya uses the term victim-survivor to refer to the ‘person, including adults, infants, children and young people, who has experienced family violence’.<sup>2</sup> The term ‘acknowledges that the person subjected to family violence is both a victim of a crime and a human rights violation, and they are also a survivor with respect to their autonomy, strength and resilience’.<sup>3</sup>

Yemaya acknowledges that family violence is disproportionately perpetrated against women and children, while also recognising that that family violence impacts people of a variety of genders and sexual orientations.

### Perpetrator

Throughout this submission, the terms ‘perpetrator’ will be used to refer to adults using family violence.

Yemaya acknowledges that, regardless of the composition of the relationship and type of experience, family violence is most frequently perpetrated by men. This is a direct reflection of the patriarchal social structures of Australian society that result in gender inequality and a hierarchy that allocates greater power to men. Yemaya also acknowledges that people who perpetrate violence also experience intersecting systems of both privilege and oppression.

---

<sup>1</sup> Domestic Violence Victoria. (2020). *Code of Practice for Specialist Family Violence Services for Victim-Survivors (2nd ed.)*. Domestic Violence Victoria. <https://safeandequal.org.au/working-in-family-violence/service-responses/specialist-family-violence-services/the-code-of-practice/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 85.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 85.

## Introduction

Family violence is a human rights violation and one of the biggest determinants of health and wellbeing for women in Australia.<sup>4</sup> Research has shown that one in four women over the age of 15 in Australia has experienced physical or sexual violence perpetrated by a current or former partner.<sup>5</sup> Approximately one in 10 women is hospitalised each day because of injuries resulting from violence perpetrated by a partner or former partner.<sup>6</sup> On average, one woman a week is murdered by a current or former partner in Australia.<sup>7</sup> It is an often invisible but frighteningly common form of violence, and an insidious violation of human rights.

The impacts of family violence are far reaching for victim-survivors - including children - and include negative physical and emotional health outcomes such as loss of financial security, loss of housing, loss of employment, decreasing social networks and supports, stigma, isolation, chronic mental health consequences, physical injuries (including injuries that lead to long-term disabilities) and death. For children, experiencing family violence can have consequences for their development, health and sense of safety and security. The frequency of family violence and its impacts are more profound for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children as a result of colonisation, dispossession, and ongoing structural racism and discrimination in Australia.

Violence against women exacts significant social and economic costs and is currently estimated to cost Australia around \$21.7 billion each year.<sup>8</sup> Governments bear 36% of the total cost, or \$7.8 billion, due to health, justice, and other service costs as well as lost productivity. The cost of pain, suffering, premature mortality, lost opportunity, and victim-survivors (or others) funding their own services and support tragically constitutes the largest proportion of the total cost, at 64% or \$13.8 billion.<sup>9</sup>

Over the past financial year, Yemaya has seen an increase in the number of women referred to the service. In the 2020-2021 financial year, Yemaya supported a total of 512 women (170 new, 289 existing and 44 returning clients). We further recorded a total of 2284 contacts with clients (542 new, 1162 existing and 580 returning clients). We are noticing that clients are engaging more with the service and presenting with increasing complexity and higher levels of risk.

In light of the concerning statistics outlined above, Yemaya is pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Third Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan (the Third Action Plan). Yemaya shares the commitment of the Tasmanian Government to end family and

---

<sup>4</sup> Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS). (2016). *A preventable burden: Measuring and addressing the prevalence and health impacts of intimate partner violence in Australian women: Key findings and future directions*. ANROWS. <http://anrows.org.au/publications/compass/preventable-burden-measuring-and-addressing-the-prevalence-and-health-impacts>

<sup>5</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). 2017. *Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2016* (ABS cat. no. 4906.0). ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release>

<sup>6</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). 2019. *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: Continuing the national story* (Cat. no FDV 3). AIHW. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-australia-2019/contents/summary>

<sup>7</sup> ANROWS. (2018). *Violence against women: Accurate use of key statistics* (ANROWS Insights 05/2018). ANROWS. <https://www.anrows.org.au/resources/fact-sheet-violence-against-women-accurate-use-of-key-statistics/>

<sup>8</sup> PwC, Our Watch & VicHealth (2015). *A high price to pay: The economic case for preventing violence against women*, PricewaterhouseCoopers. Retrieved from: [a-high-price-to-pay.pdf](http://a-high-price-to-pay.pdf) ([pwc.com.au](http://pwc.com.au))

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 4.

sexual violence in our state and looks forward to working in partnership to implement an action plan that takes bold action to support victim-survivors and holds perpetrators to account.

The content of this submission has been developed with consideration given to the focus areas and prompt questions provided by the Tasmanian Government in the call for submissions. In response, our submission focuses on six key areas for consideration in the Third Action Plan:

- An Integrated Primary Prevention Strategy
- Misidentification of Victim-Survivors as Perpetrators
- Housing and Homelessness
- Expansion of Family Violence Outreach Services
- Child Safety Service's Engagement with Perpetrators
- A Tasmanian Family Violence Peak Body

Each key focus area is expanded upon below, including specific recommendations for actions to incorporate into the Third Action Plan.

## An Integrated Primary Prevention Strategy

### Primary Prevention

Family violence is preventable.<sup>10</sup> Primary prevention aims to stop violence before it occurs. It focuses on addressing the drivers of family violence, including gendered values and attitudes, and changing the social structures that create and embed them.<sup>11</sup>

We acknowledge the Tasmanian Government's establishment of the Our Watch Primary Prevention Officer and the achievements that have occurred since the commencement of the role in March 2020. Although positive work is being done in this space, it is largely left up to individual agencies to conduct prevention work where they can. A systematic and coordinated approach needs to take place, which will require additional resources and further strategic planning. This will require investment and effort that engages all levels of government, non-government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and communities. Some primary prevention initiatives may include school-based programs that create gender equitable environments and build students' relationship skills, public and workplace initiatives that promote positive bystander responses, social marketing campaigns that promote gender equality, opportunities that support men and boys to develop healthy masculinities, consciousness-raising that shifts community attitudes that justify, excuse or trivialise family violence or place blame on victim-survivors, and other efforts that challenge and reduce disrespectful portrayals of women in the media. Primary prevention is distinct from early intervention (or secondary prevention) and is best staged consistently over time.<sup>12</sup> It would be prudent to consult with services that are already engaging in primary prevention efforts, to gauge from them what has been successful to date and what else needs to be done. The government might also consider further funding current specialist services that have well established skills in trauma informed practice and theories of gender-based violence, to co-deliver evidence-based programs consistently throughout the state.

---

<sup>10</sup> Department of Communities Tasmania. (2018). *Primary Prevention*. Retrieved May 29, 2022 from <https://www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au/resources-hub/primary-prevention>

<sup>11</sup> VicHealth. (2015). *Change the Story: A Shared Framework for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and their Children in Australia*. Our Watch, Melbourne, Australia. Retrieved from [Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia \(2nd ed.\). \(ourwatch.org.au\)](https://www.ourwatch.org.au/change-the-story-a-shared-framework-for-the-primary-prevention-of-violence-against-women-in-australia-2nd-ed/)

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, 100.

## Early Intervention or Secondary Prevention

Early intervention or secondary prevention aims to change the trajectory for individuals who are at higher risk of perpetrating or experiencing family violence.<sup>13</sup> We know that Tasmanian community-based service providers are contracted by Child Safety Service (CSS) to deliver services specifically for children. This is a positive action, and we believe that similarly, specialist family violence services need to either be additionally funded by the government, or otherwise contracted by CSS, to provide early intervention services to parents who are at risk. Yemaya is often a point of referral for CSS, who consistently refer women who may be considered ‘high risk’ of experiencing family violence. We are very well positioned in terms of experience and knowledge to conduct this early intervention response to women (through one-on-one counselling and Shark Cage educational and support groups).

**Recommendation 1: Develop a comprehensive family violence primary prevention strategy for Tasmania that drives the development and implementation of family violence primary prevention activity at all levels.**

**Recommendation 2: Additionally fund specialist family violence services to conduct secondary prevention work with women who are considered by Child Safety Service ‘high risk’ of experiencing family violence.**

## Misidentification of Victim-Survivors as Perpetrators

Recent ANROWS research has found that ‘despite decades of legislative, policy and procedural reform to address unintended consequences of [domestic and family violence] law in Australia, the problem of women being wrongly treated as perpetrators persists.’<sup>14</sup> Consistent with these findings, Yemaya is increasingly concerned with the escalation of victim-survivors of family violence being misidentified as perpetrators in Tasmania, and believes this is an issue requiring urgent action in the Third Action Plan.

Misidentification of victim-survivors as perpetrators of family violence has serious and long-term consequences. Critically, it leaves victim-survivors of family violence – including children – without protection from the family violence. Of note, the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review network found in the 2018 Data Report that prior to their death, 44% of women killed as a result of domestic and family violence had been listed as a respondent on a protection order by police in a current or former relationship.<sup>15</sup> For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, it was almost 100%.

Misidentification of victim-survivors as perpetrators of family violence undermines confidence in the legal system and often colludes with systems abuse being committed by the perpetrators of family violence. Misidentification can often prevent or significantly delay victim-survivors receiving specialist, trauma-informed family violence support, including access to family violence crisis accommodation. It further creates deleterious consequences for victim-survivors around custody of and access to their children. Misidentification undermines Tasmania’s Safe at Home response to family violence, as victim-survivors misidentified as perpetrators are often excluded from their homes. In workplaces

---

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 58.

<sup>14</sup> Nancarrow, H., Thomas, K., Ringland, V. & Modini, T. (2020). *Accurately identifying the ‘person most in need of protection’ in domestic and family violence law*. ANROWS. <https://www.anrows.org.au/project/accurately-identifying-the-person-most-in-need-of-protection-in-domestic-and-family-violence-law/>, p. 102

<sup>15</sup> Australian Domestic & Family Violence Death Review Network. (2018). *Data Report*. Domestic Violence Death Review Team. [file:///C:/Users/Aliso/Downloads/ADFVDRN\\_Data\\_Report\\_2018%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Aliso/Downloads/ADFVDRN_Data_Report_2018%20(2).pdf)



with otherwise effective family violence policies, misidentified victim-survivors can be suspended from their employment. Overall, misidentification can have potentially lifelong, harmful impacts.<sup>16</sup>

While the drivers of misidentification are complex, the ANROWS research concluded that no Australian jurisdiction currently provides a criminal justice response to family violence that effectively addresses the misidentification of victim-survivors as perpetrators. Yemaya concurs with these findings as they relate to Tasmania and believes urgent action is required to understand misidentification in the Tasmanian context, put measures in place to stop it from occurring, and take action to mitigate its impacts. Among those actions should be a focus on increasing family violence training for Tasmania Police at all levels and investment in a common, multiagency risk assessment and risk management process that specifically focuses on policies and procedures that minimise the likelihood of victim-survivors of family violence being misidentified as perpetrators.<sup>17</sup>

**Recommendation 3: Collect data and evidence to identify the drivers of misidentification of victim-survivors as perpetrators of family violence in Tasmania.**

**Recommendation 4: Ensure family violence training for Tasmanian Police mitigates against misidentification of victim-survivors as perpetrators of family violence.**

**Recommendation 5: Ensure the new Tasmanian multiagency risk assessment framework addresses misidentification and is implemented across the whole coordinated, systemic response to family violence in Tasmania – including Tasmania Police.**

## Housing and Homelessness

Family violence is the leading cause of homeless for women and children in Australia.<sup>18</sup> This combined with an unprecedented shortage of affordable housing is generating an unparalleled crisis in housing for victim-survivors of family violence. Homelessness is an often traumatic event that can result in great social and economic costs to individuals and communities. Homelessness creates significant instability for people and can lead to chronic health issues and unemployment and reduced social and economic inclusion. This crisis means many victim-survivors are left with the impossible choice between remaining in their current housing and continuing to experience family violence or leaving and risking long-term homelessness for themselves and their children. Many women are forced into a homelessness and abuse cycle that sees them fleeing family violence, only having to return to their homes (where the perpetrators often remain) due to financial insecurity and limited access to crisis and housing services. This is certainly a complexity that many Yemaya clients have had to navigate. The lack of housing exit points also creates a bottleneck in family violence crisis accommodation, further restricting support options for victim-survivors at high risk and seeking immediate safety through shelter accommodation.

The shortage of affordable long-term housing for victim-survivors also significantly undermines Tasmania's Safe at Home response to family violence. While the Safe at Home response has been successful in preventing housing insecurity for some victim-survivors, it is often not a safe option for many others. There are approximately 4000 people on the waiting list for social housing in Tasmania.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Nancarrow et al., p.9

<sup>17</sup> Nancarrow et al.

<sup>18</sup> Spinney A. (2012). *Home and Safe? Policy and practice innovations to prevent women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence from becoming homeless*. Final report no. 196. Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute. <https://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/196>

<sup>19</sup> Lohberger, L. (2022, May 26). *Tasmanian budget 2022: Who are the winners and losers?* ABC News. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-05-26/tasmanian-budget-2022-winners-and-losers/101093452>

While Yemaya welcomes the Tasmanian Government's commitment to build 1,169 new social and affordable homes in the next financial year, this remains insufficient to support and protect victim-survivors of family violence. Yemaya believes that the State Government must increase its investment in crisis/short-term housing, subsidised Rapid Rehousing properties and more affordable long-term housing for victim-survivors of family violence. Too many victim-survivors feel compelled to remain in abusive relationships or are pushed into insecure and unsafe housing arrangements, due to Tasmania's family violence and housing crises. Tasmanian victim-survivors must have this basic human right met before they can focus on rebuilding their lives.

**Recommendation 6: Increase social and affordable housing supply specifically allocated to victim-survivors of family violence.**

## Expansion of Family Violence Outreach Services

Research indicates that there are higher levels of domestic violence in regional, rural, and remote areas of Australia than in urban centres.<sup>20</sup> Women in rural areas face specific issues related to their geographical location and the cultural and social characteristics of living in small communities.<sup>21</sup> There is a common view in rural communities that 'family problems' such as intimate partner abuse are not talked about, which serves to silence women's experiences and deter them from disclosing. Further, women in rural areas experience unique structural and cultural barriers that negatively impact their ability to disclose, report, seek support and receive appropriate interventions following experiences of domestic violence.<sup>22</sup> Social and geographical isolation can respectively shape women's feelings of shame and embarrassment and create physical barriers to women accessing services. There are also higher gun ownership rates, lower internet access rates and higher instances of mobile 'blackspots' in rural areas, which compound the risk to victim-survivors. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds can face greater hardships stemming from multiple, intersecting oppressions (such as racism, xenophobia, and language barriers).

Yemaya commenced outreach services to rural areas in Northern Tasmania in November 2021. Currently, the specialist outreach practitioner is working 3 days per week and has provided family violence outreach support to Beaconsfield, Beauty Point, Swan Bay, George Town, Lilydale, Branxholm, Scottsdale, and Bridport. The outreach service has included one-on-one, trauma-informed specialist counselling, safety planning, crisis counselling, domestic violence education, healthy relationships education, information, advocacy, and referral. The practitioner also facilitates Shark Cage support groups in several of these communities, which provides women with empowerment, social support, community connectedness, information, and education. This 'hub and spoke' service model (where a central hub located in a regional centre provides outreach to rural and remote populations) is shown to be effective for regional, rural, and remote service provision. Yemaya's outreach practitioner has established a presence in the target communities through networking and partnerships, spending time at community neighbourhood houses and community centres. This has allowed Yemaya to build important connections with rural communities, using a collaborative

---

<sup>20</sup> Wendt, S., & Hornosty, J. (2010). Understanding contexts of family violence in rural, farming communities: Implications for rural women's health. *Rural Society*, 20(1), 51-63.

<sup>21</sup> VicHealth (2017). *Violence against women in Australia: an overview of research and approaches to primary prevention*. Melbourne Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.

<sup>22</sup> Wendt, S., Bryant, L., Chung, D., & Elder, A. (2015). Seeking help for domestic violence: Exploring rural women's coping experiences: State of the Knowledge Paper. *Landscapes: State of the Knowledge*, 4. Alexandria, NSW: Australia's National Research Organization for Women's Safety.

'bottom-up' approach and improve the sense of social inclusion for individual women who have experienced family violence.

Twenty-six women are currently being supported and the service quickly developed a waiting list. Despite this great work, we believe other rural areas of Northern Tasmania present a serious service gap, and that Yemaya is well positioned to expand outreach services into those areas. We note that it would be advantageous to use this outreach model with clients who live in the outer suburbs of Launceston also, namely Mowbray, Ravenswood, and Newstead, where Family Centres are established. Clients from these areas often experience difficulty travelling to Launceston to receive specialist support. We believe that the Tasmanian Government must use a rural lens when developing the Third Action Plan and additionally fund specialist services to carry out vital family violence outreach support to rural areas.

**Recommendation 7: Additionally fund specialist services to expand family violence outreach support into rural communities and outer suburbs of Launceston.**

## Child Safety Service's Engagement with Perpetrators

Time and again, Yemaya clients have been retraumatised by the involvement of CSS in their lives. This primarily occurs as a result of CSS making mothers responsible for protecting their children from the violence perpetrated by a partner, rather than intervening directly with the perpetrator. This approach to child safety and family violence directly and indirectly blames victim-survivors for the abuse and the risk it poses to children, while excusing perpetrators from responsibility. As a result, CSS is not protecting nor supporting children who are experiencing family violence, nor their protective, non-offending parent or caregiver. For example, CSS habitually refers mothers experiencing family violence to the Yemaya Shark Cage program so they can 'better identify perpetrators'. Retaining care of their children is often conditional upon program attendance and/or engaging in counselling at Yemaya. However, equivalent expectations are seldom placed on perpetrating fathers. Further, it is Yemaya's observation that the consequences for mothers (who are victim-survivors of family violence) of failing to adhere to the directions of CSS, are far greater than for fathers of perpetrating violence. These attitudes and practices reflect a lack of application of a gender lens and poor understanding of family violence. It further creates a prejudice against non-offending mothers by CSS, who through these types of interventions, are colluding with the perpetrator and exacerbating the effects family violence has on victim-survivors, including children.

Yemaya believes CSS would be improved by a trauma-informed, family violence framework for responding to risk to children from family violence. The globally recognised Safe & Together Model advocates keeping children safe and together with the non-offending parent, partnering with the non-offending parent and intervening with the parent or caregiver solely responsible for creating the risk. Yemaya highly recommends the Tasmanian CSS adopts the Safe & Together Model and develops a practice framework for working with perpetrators of family violence similar to that developed in Victoria as a result of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.<sup>23</sup> This recommendation includes embedding engagement with perpetrators of family violence in CSS family violence risk assessments, using the forthcoming new multiagency risk assessment tool.

**Recommendation 8: An expectation that the Tasmanian Child Safety Service adopts the Safe & Together Model and pivots towards the perpetrator in cases featuring family violence.**

---

<sup>23</sup> See also [Working with adult perpetrators of family violence - tip sheet](#).

## A Tasmanian Family Violence Peak Body

Most other jurisdictions in Australia have a feminist, independent, member-led peak body that is the state-wide voice representing specialist family violence services responding to victim-survivors. While there is some variation in the role and functions of these family violence peak bodies, they each lead, organise, advocate for, and act on behalf of their members to work towards the elimination of family violence.

The benefits to Government of an independent peak body for specialist family violence services responding to victim-survivors includes:

- A central point of contact for specialist family violence services responding to victim-survivors.
- Provision of advice to Government based on coordinated views of specialist family violence services and subject matter expertise.
- Coordinated policy development, and representation and advocacy to Government.
- Coordinated information dissemination to members.
- Coordinated approach to capability building through specialist family violence practice development, broader sector development, and training functions.
- An organisation leading and informing research, building the evidence base related to family violence in Tasmania, and facilitating knowledge translation in both directions between research and practice.
- Facilitating the input of people with lived experience into policy, advocacy, and research.
- A Tasmanian representative in multi-jurisdictional and international spaces.

Yemaya believes it is time that Tasmania join the rest of Australia in having a dedicated and independent peak body for specialist family violence services responding to victim-survivors.

**Recommendation 9: A commitment to establishing and resourcing an independent peak body for specialist family violence services responding to victim-survivors in Tasmania.**

## Conclusion

Yemaya welcomes the development of the Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan for Tasmania. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our insights to the government on this vital stage of planning. We are excited that the government has included lived experience in the consultation process, as victim-survivors voices are imperative to informing policy and service provision that address family violence in Tasmania. Yemaya looks forward to seeing the results of the consultation and planning process and working in partnership to implement the Third Action Plan.

## Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1	Develop a comprehensive family violence primary prevention strategy for Tasmania that drives the development and implementation of family violence primary prevention activity at all levels.
Recommendation 2	Additionally fund specialist family violence services to conduct secondary prevention work with women who are considered by Child Safety Service 'high risk' of experiencing family violence.
Recommendation 3	Collect data and evidence to identify the drivers of misidentification of victim-survivors as perpetrators of family violence in Tasmania.
Recommendation 4	Ensure family violence training for Tasmania Police mitigates against misidentification of victim-survivors as perpetrators of family violence.
Recommendation 5	Ensure the new Tasmanian multiagency risk assessment framework addresses misidentification and is implemented across the whole coordinated, systemic response to family violence in Tasmania – including Tasmania Police.
Recommendation 6	Increase social and affordable housing supply specifically allocated to victim-survivors of family violence.
Recommendation 7	Additionally fund specialist services to expand family violence outreach support into rural communities and outer suburbs of Launceston.
Recommendation 8	An expectation that the Tasmanian Child Safety Service adopts the Safe & Together Model and pivots towards the perpetrator in cases featuring family violence.
Recommendation 9	A commitment to establishing and resourcing an independent peak body for specialist family violence services responding to victim-survivors in Tasmania.