

TASMANIA POLICE

**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
TRANSGENDER AND
INTERSEX (LGBTI)
LIAISON OFFICERS**

Personal safety

Public places in Tasmania are generally safe, however you can reduce the chances of being assaulted or harassed in the following ways:

Stay alert & plan your night

- Awareness is your best defence
- If you think something is wrong remove yourself from the situation and remain calm
- Catch a taxi or arrange to meet with friends and walk together

Project confidence

- Walk near the curb and avoid parked cars, side streets and alleys
- Be aware of who is in front and behind you
- If you feel threatened cross the street
- Be aware who gets off public transport with you
- Have your keys in your hand when you reach your car or home

If you witness or hear an attack intervene safely

- If you see someone being attacked don't ignore it. Think - What help would I want if I were being attacked?
- Gather other people and rush to the scene, blow a whistle if you have one, or shout to attract attention
- Remember the purpose is not to physically intervene, but to scare off the attacker(s)

For further advice on same-sex relationship violence visit
<http://www.also.org.au/Same-SexDomesticViolenceProject.htm>

Hate crimes

A prejudice-motivated crime is a criminal act carried out, at least in part, because of someone's bias or hatred of a person or group's perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion or ethnicity.

Tasmania Police recognise prejudice motivated crimes, such as homophobia, biphobia or transphobia, can be one of the most traumatic experiences in a victim's life. Hate crimes are not just limited to assaults; other common hate crimes include property damage, robberies and theft.

You can report hate crimes to any police officer, or contact an LGBTI Liaison Officer for assistance. In an emergency always call **000**.

Any form of bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination or vilification is a breach of the Anti-Discrimination Act and is illegal in Tasmania. These matters can be reported to the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner - Ph: **6233 4841**.

Other groups that may be able to assist you include:

Working It Out 6231 1200 (Hobart)
6432 3643 (Burnie)
6334 4013 (Launceston)

Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group
6224 3556

**Coming Out Proud Program Community
Liaison Committee** 6239 6606 (N/NW/W/S)

**Telephone Support & Referral Helpline for gay,
lesbian and bisexual people** 1800 184 527



80904

Tasmania Police is committed to ensuring equity and fairness

Tasmania Police is committed to ensuring equality and fairness to the community it serves. As part of this commitment we have established a network of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Liaison Officers across the state to assist us to improve our relationship with LGBTI people and communities.

The LGBTI Liaison Officers' mission is to contribute to the creation of mutual trust between police and LGBTI people so they have increasing confidence in police through the provision of a fair and equitable policing service.

LGBTI Liaison Officers can assist by providing discrete, non-judgemental advice and assistance in the reporting of crimes. A full list of LGBTI Liaison Officers can be downloaded from the Tasmania Police website, www.police.tas.gov.au. If the matter is urgent you should always call 000.

Reporting matters to Police

There are LGBTI Liaison Officers located at various police stations throughout Tasmania; however, any police officer is able to take a report of crime. You can contact any police station to do this. If the matter is urgent you should call 000.

When attending a police station to report a matter, remember you may ask to conduct your business in a private room. If you feel you are not being treated fairly you may request to speak with another police officer or to contact a LGBTI Liaison Officer.

Tasmania Police LGBTI Liaison Officers can assist by providing discrete, non-judgemental advice and assistance in the reporting of crimes.

By calling a LGBTI Liaison Officer, victims can discuss the incident then decide the most suitable process for the matter to be reported. The Liaison Officer can also provide expert advice and assistance to police investigators.

To enquire about the contact details for your local LGBTI Liaison Officer contact the Tasmania Police switchboard on 03 62 302111 or go to the Tasmania Police Website for a full list of LGBTI Liaison Officers.

Violence within same-sex relationships

Violence can impact on intimate partner relationships including those in same-sex relationships. It can include physical, economic, psychological and emotional abuse, as well as threats and intimidation, property destruction and isolation.

Police also recognise some forms of abuse are unique to same sex relationships. Abusive same sex partners often attempt to control and manipulate their partners in a variety of different ways including:

- Threatening to or 'outing' their partner to friends, family, work etc
- Telling a partner no one will believe them or care because the police and courts are prejudiced against LGBTI people
- Telling a partner they deserve it because they are same-sex attracted
- Telling a partner they are not a real homosexual because of previous relationships with a partner of the opposite sex
- Relying on sexist stereotypes to hide abuse and increase power and control over their partner by portraying the violence as mutual or consensual combat.

Never think their violence is your fault. In an emergency you should always call police on 000. You may also seek advice by speaking to any police officer at any police station or by contacting Safe at Home on: **1800 633 937**