



Issue 3 – 10 November 2022

# Sexual and Family Violence Project Newsletter

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## Welcome to the third newsletter

In this issue, FVCSS describes the services it offers as part of the Safe at Home initiative and provides insights on what this will look like in the multidisciplinary centres (MDCs).

Also we share some progress on the facilities which will house the MDCs, including what you can expect in terms of the 'look and feel' of the centres.

## Have you just found out about the Project?

Our [earlier newsletters](#) may answer your questions.

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## Service delivery in the centres

Thank you to staff of the FVCSS for the following contribution. We appreciate your ongoing support of the Project and specialist contribution to the design of the MDCs.

### >> **Family Violence Counselling and Support Service**

*FVCSS offers specialised services to assist adults, children and young people affected by family violence. This operational service is part of the Safe at Home initiative: a Tasmanian whole-of-government response to family violence.*

*The FVCSS Adult Program provides information, referral, support, advocacy and counselling to adults who have been affected by family violence. People can self-refer or be referred by another person or service. Services are offered to victim-survivors in heterosexual or same-sex relationships. FVCSS Adult Program has an Extended Hours Service which provides support outside of working hours, seven days per week, including public holidays from 4pm until midnight.*

*The Children and Young Persons Program (CHYPP) of FVCSS provides information, therapeutic counselling and support for children and young people affected by family violence and their non offending caregiver, when there has been a police report. CHYPP also provides therapeutic group programs, referral and linkages to support networks.*

*FVCSS has offices in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart. Appointments can be made to see clients in other locations. All services are voluntary and free of cost.*

*FVCSS along with a range of other specialist services have worked together in program planning and design for the creation of two MDCs in Tasmania to support victim-survivors of sexual and family violence. FVCSS is excited to be involved in the information gathering, consultations, discussions and reflections that are occurring.*

*There will be one FVCSS position in each of the MDCs (one in the north and one in the south). FVCSS supports the values of the MDCs, with priority on the physical and emotional safety of all clients and staff, respecting diversity, working with integrity, openness and building trust, learning from victim-survivors and striving to continually improve services for victim-survivors of sexual and family violence. FVCSS is committed to building upon the existing collaborative relationships between service providers and to further enhance service provision to victim-survivors of sexual and family violence. The opportunity to contribute to a victim-survivor centred, integrated and holistic service that is tailored specifically for victims of sexual and family violence is warmly welcomed by FVCSS.*

*Specific details for service delivery are being developed. FVCSS will provide specialist family violence risk assessment and safety planning, trauma-informed responses to adults and children, with a specialised child centred and developmental focus for children and young people, support for parenting after violence, advocacy, referral for specialised counselling services, as well as liaison with Family Law Court post separation services. FVCSS will offer leadership and consultation on family violence related matters.*

*The overarching FVCSS vision is that all Tasmanians are safe, equal and respected and free from all forms of sexual and family violence.*

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## Accommodation

The Project Team has been working closely with an experienced architect to secure facilities in both Hobart and Launceston for the MDCs to operate out of. This has been both exciting and challenging, but we are pleased to announce that facilities have now been secured at both locations.

The facilities were selected and will be fitted out with the needs of victim-survivors at the centre. What you have told us, what we have heard, and what we know from research is informing each and every decision. There has been consultation on early concepts and

design features to ensure they meet the needs of both victim-survivors and service providers. While we have more work to do, we are pleased with progress to date.

Let's have a look at some of the considerations in terms of location, fit out and service provision at the centres.

### Accessibility

The location of facilities was a significant consideration for the Team and what we have heard is that accessibility is critical. While the precise location of the MDCs will remain discrete (as far as possible), it is important to say that safe and convenient access by all members of our community has been prioritised. There is public transport and car parking nearby to each facility, as well as shops and other services. It will be easy to provide an alternative explanation for being in either area, if required.

### Supporting wellbeing through design

With a focus on creating a trauma-informed environment we are building an interior space that is warm, calm and residential.

The design concept is inspired by new growth eucalypt and links the centres to Tasmania's natural environment.

Each facility has oodles of daylight, and colours are being carefully selected to help put clients at ease. Matched with natural materials, these elements will provide warmth to disguise the commercial backdrop. The furniture will complement this look and feel.



On entering a centre, you will first move into an area with comfortable couches, soft furnishings and a kitchenette, and you will be warmly welcomed by a fully trained support services staff member. Counselling and support rooms will be close by and will be similarly fitted out. Rooms that serve a technical purpose will have the necessary equipment integrated as far as possible, so that the space remains warm and is less confronting. Both centres will have a private, modern and accessible client-only bathroom.

We have carefully considered the choices clients might make at the centres and what this will mean for their movement within them. If you choose to see one particular service provider only, the design will help to ensure that you do not bump into any others. For example, we respect that some clients may not want to, or may not be ready to, see a police officer. With this in mind, police officers who work in the centres will not be in uniform and will use an alternative door.



### Opportunities for MDC staff collaboration

While services will not overlap from a client perspective, the fit out will provide opportunities for centre staff to collaborate in shared breakout spaces. This will allow staff to engage discretely, as appropriate, while supporting a client. It will also foster stronger relationships between staff, which will enhance the coordinated delivery of trauma-informed services.

The fit out of facilities will be consistent in the north and the south. Both locations will offer purpose-built areas for the delivery of therapeutic counselling and support, evidence

gathering and investigative functions. Most importantly, the centres will support victim-survivor choice. They will allow trauma-informed conversations to be had and services to be delivered by people working together towards improved outcomes for victim-survivors.

We have considerable work to do as we continue to progress the development of the centres, but you have our word – they are being designed with and for you.

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### Centre logo survey

You will soon receive a short survey from the Project Team.

We have been working with an experienced graphic designer who is helping to make sure that branding is carefully considered, meaningful and reflects the personality of the centres.

We have narrowed the selection down to two potential designs and the survey asks you specific questions in relation to those designs.

Thank you in advance.

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### Next issue

One more newsletter is planned before the end of 2022.

We hope to hear from the investigative services to be located in the MDCs or that are linked to the pilot.

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### Need more information?

We are committed to keeping you informed about the project as it progresses. If you would like additional information or wish to provide feedback, please do not hesitate to contact the Project Team at [mdc@dpfem.tas.gov.au](mailto:mdc@dpfem.tas.gov.au).

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