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| Issue 1 - July 2022 |

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| Sexual and Family Violence ProjectNewsletter |

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| In this issue: * Project overview
* Stakeholder Forum (3 June)
* Centre design
* Funding
* Frequently asked questions
* Key terms

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Sexual and Family Violence Project!What an opportunity we have before us to work together towards transformational change in Tasmania to improve our responses to victim-survivors of sexual and family violence and support their journey towards recovery. |

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| Project overviewThis project will pilot an innovative and collaborative service delivery model and expand the Safe Families Coordination Unit (SFCU) remit to include sexual violence.Two multidisciplinary centres will be established under a two-year pilot, and will provide immediate and integrated support to victim-survivors.After a long history of working together, co-location is the logical next step and will take service delivery to the next level. Review and evaluation of the pilot will help us to be responsive and agile throughout the trial. The strong focus on victim-survivor care will not change.The project team looks forward to working collaboratively with you to ensure the voice of victim-survivors is heard. We will introduce the team to you soon. |

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| Stakeholder Forum (3 June 2022) – commencing co-designOn Friday, 3 June 2022, representatives from government and non-government organisations came together and commenced early conversations about what a multidisciplinary model might look like, nuanced to the Tasmanian context.The workshop was invaluable in hearing diverse views about and informing the development of the following multidisciplinary centre program elements: * key principles and objectives
* complexity and nature of program elements
* approach to working together
* critical importance of working with our partners to collaboratively establish the new centres and co-design the service model.

The early thoughts, ideas, and considerations of stakeholders and partners raised at the forum will inform the establishment of the new centres and their service model.Some of the key themes raised at the forum included: * criticality of a trauma-informed, victim-centric approach and what this looks like in practice
* challenges of information sharing and mandatory reporting, including victim rights and choice
* importance of effective leadership and a supportive culture within the multidisciplinary centres
* the requirement for trained and experienced staff, as well as equity between service providers
* diverse victim-survivor needs (age, culture, gender, literacy etc.) at different stages of their journey
* leveraging existing services and linkages, integrating these into the multidisciplinary centres
* benefits of centrally located premises that are discreet, accessible, warm, and comfortable
* parking, proximity to public transport, a kitchenette, and a space for children
* the capacity to conduct outreach and mobile services to remote communities.

The project team has been working closely with stakeholders to inform the project development according to feedback. It is critical to remember the pilot will be used to trial a service delivery model, and then refine or expand that model based on external evaluation. |

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| Centre designBased on early victim-survivor and stakeholder feedback the pilot centres will provide dedicated and discreet facilities which are architecturally designed to be accessible, welcoming, empowering, and supportive.The centres will feature therapeutic consultation rooms, family friendly facilities and be technology enabled.Centres will be designed with child safe standards at the forefront. |

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| Funding and resourcingFunding of $15.1 million has been allocated over two years with approximately $8 million in the 2022-23 financial year and approximately $7.1 million in the 2023-24 financial year.The two critical components of that funding include:Multidisciplinary centres: * Establish one trauma informed centre in the south and one in the north
* Identify, lease, and fit out each centre, including technology and specialist requirements.

New FTE positions: * 15specialist sex crimes investigators (10 in the south and 5 in the north)
* 9 state service employees in analytics and specialist roles (across the model)
* 3 Communities Tasmania; Child Safety Officers (2 x south / 1 x north)
* 2 Communities Tasmania; Family Violence Counselling Support Workers (1 x south / 1 x north).
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| Service sector funding$75 million over the next five yearsThe sexual violence service sector has been funded $21 million, and the family violence service sector approximately $51 million, over the next five years to support the implementation of the *Third Sexual and Family Violence Action Plan*.The multidisciplinary centre pilot models will include staff on site from the Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) in the south and Laurel House in the north. |

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| What happens next?The project team is focused on identifying appropriate facilities to commence a procurement process and secure leases so that building works can commence.This is both a priority and a challenge as the building industry remains impacted by supply challenges following COVID-19.Implementation of pilot centres in early 2023 relies on the establishment of the centres themselves.Four working groups, a victim-survivor advocacy group, and key stakeholders will continue to be engaged with the project team to progress program design and service delivery models. |

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| Need more information?We are committed to keeping you informed about the progress of the project, so 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. |

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| Frequently Asked Questions

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| Will the Safe Families Coordination Unit have an expanded remit to include sexual violence?   |   Yes                 |
| Where the Safe Families Coordination Unit receives a referral, will it undertake the same risk assessment process for sexual violence as it does for family violence?  |   Yes |
| Will the Safe Families Co-ordination Unit continue to respond to requests for individual mapping or assessments from agencies? |   Yes |
| Where offences or information relating to sexual violence are assessed and require a response, will they be sent to the local multidisciplinary centre?  |   Yes |
| Where offences or information relating to family violence where there is no indication of sexual violence are assessed and require a response, will they be sent to the centre? |   No |
| Where offences or information relating to family violence are assessed and require a response, will they be sent to geographical police as per current and existing arrangements? |   Yes |
| Where offences or information relating to family violence include sexual violence and are assessed as requiring a response, will they be sent to the multidisciplinary centre? |   Yes |
| Will offences or information relating to child abuse that do not include sexual abuse be referred to the multidisciplinary centre? |   No |

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| Key termsThere are many key terms that will be used along this project’s journey.These can have differing meanings depending on the context in which they are used.For the purposes of ensuring we are all using these with a consistent understanding, the key terms used in this project are outlined below:Sexual ViolenceSexual violence refers to the force or manipulation of someone into unwanted sexual activity without their consent.Anyone can experience sexual violence, and those who sexually abuse others can be acquaintances, family members, friends, trusted individuals, or strangers.Sexual violence affects victim-survivors throughout their lives and can be devastating for individuals, families, and communities.Tasmanians should be free from, and feel safe from, sexual violence.The Tasmanian *Commission of Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings* commenced in March 2021 and is currently hearing victim-survivors tell their very personal lived experiences of sexual violence.We acknowledge the pain and suffering that victim-survivors of sexual violence experience, and we are committed to doing everything we can to improve our responses to sexual violence in Tasmania.Family ViolenceFamily Violence is defined by the [*Family Violence Act 2004*](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcust102981.au.v6send.net%2Fch%2F102981%2F1718g%2F6%2FqyrjZG28eci1xElIiQbSx8j1WehCqIaWzgN9F1B_.html&data=05%7C01%7CHeather.Stewart%40dpfem.tas.gov.au%7C9f7231d3f85f4388796308da907711fe%7Ced13a8afa76343dcb114891492b38482%7C0%7C0%7C637981138323115852%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VgsfBM6XEOLCiPPK0h%2Fjf4LkiFlP0rFMpbGapiB0sLw%3D&reserved=0) (the Act), which outlines conduct committed against a person’s spouse or partner.The definition includes, but is not limited to, sexual violence and specifically relates to someone who has been involved in a marriage or a significant relationship within the meaning of the [*Relationships Act 2003*](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcust102981.au.v6send.net%2Fch%2F102981%2F1718g%2F7%2FqyrjZG28eci1xElIiQbS2751f5RNWaoU747QvMuq.html&data=05%7C01%7CHeather.Stewart%40dpfem.tas.gov.au%7C9f7231d3f85f4388796308da907711fe%7Ced13a8afa76343dcb114891492b38482%7C0%7C0%7C637981138323115852%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UdBys%2FjVgXMYIdWBl2W0%2FLrmpK4O1ryPjlxGoJ8cPOE%3D&reserved=0)*.*Family violence, as defined by the Act, relates to adults. There is an exemption where one or both of the parties is between the ages of 16 and 18 years. Other than this one exception, this definition of family violence does not include children or offences between family members who are neither spouses nor partners.This does not mean that children or other family members are not affected by family violence or other forms of violence in the home.  These people often need support through other pathways including through the child protection system, elder abuse hotlines or other community services. The *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* requires all adults to make a report when they are aware that a child’s safety, psychological wellbeing or interests are affected or likely to be affected by family violence.Safe at HomeTasmania has been recognised nationally for its response to family violence through the Department of Justice led whole-of-government [Safe at Home](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcust102981.au.v6send.net%2Fch%2F102981%2F1718g%2F8%2FqyrjZG28eci1xElIiQbSQ7BdoyHhqaDYmcf_CfRW.html&data=05%7C01%7CHeather.Stewart%40dpfem.tas.gov.au%7C9f7231d3f85f4388796308da907711fe%7Ced13a8afa76343dcb114891492b38482%7C0%7C0%7C637981138323115852%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=peIdCa16qOdKyXnAChN69nWPYAEoz3faAowrdgfa1mQ%3D&reserved=0) program.This integrated criminal justice response to family violence was introduced in 2005 as an integrated service delivery system underpinned by the *Act.*The Safe at Home service system is designed to meet the needs of family violence victims and their children, keeping them [Safe From Violence](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcust102981.au.v6send.net%2Fch%2F102981%2F1718g%2F9%2FqyrjZG28eci1xElIiQbSxuY7aRyVkuTwEejotD27.html&data=05%7C01%7CHeather.Stewart%40dpfem.tas.gov.au%7C9f7231d3f85f4388796308da907711fe%7Ced13a8afa76343dcb114891492b38482%7C0%7C0%7C637981138323115852%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GCDNxtxcxxo%2FDuYdeOZdGSWjl%2Bw8b7dRxfKse1biLtU%3D&reserved=0), while holding perpetrators accountable for their behaviour.Safe Families Coordination UnitThe SFCU feeds into the Safe at Home service system and was the principal action of Safe Homes, Safe Families 2019–2022.This permanent co-located group of personnel from across government share information in real-time, address gaps, and perform detailed analysis and assessments, informing decision making in support of frontline service delivery. The SFCU recognises the value of timely information sharing in supporting highly vulnerable clients, providing additional information into existing response systems to ensure an appropriate level of service.Expanding the intelligence remit of the SFCU to include sexual violence, not just in a family violence context, leverages the success of the existing, and proven, SFCU information sharing model.SFCU is not a front-line response provider and does not replace existing front-line responses by individual agencies or Safe at Home in a family violence context. With the proposed expansion of the SFCU remit to include sexual violence it is important to be clear that operational responses to family violence will remain unchanged and continue to be managed within the Safe at Home service system.Family Violence Units within Tasmania Police investigate family violence and target high risk perpetrators. These units are a critical component of the integrated Safe at Home model and will continue their important work.The Safe at Home model is proven and will continue to deliver for victim-survivors of family violence, working closely with pilot multidisciplinary centres. The project team is examining how the SFCU will support the newly developed multidisciplinary centres’ operational responses to sexual violence, with a focus on empowering victim-survivors in a trauma-informed environment.Working Groups are specifically examining referral pathways, information sharing and linkages to operational responses.It is envisaged that the expanded SFCU intelligence hub will enable a complete intelligence picture of an offender/perpetrator to be provided to the multidisciplinary centres and, in doing so, support enhanced victim-survivor outcomes.Multidisciplinary modelsMultidisciplinary teams are the mechanism for organising and coordinating services to meet the needs of individuals.These teams can be seen across many sectors, and in various sizes and structures, bringing together specialists to jointly manage responses to complex needs.Through collaborative practice, clear communication, and task clarity, multidisciplinary teams help to reduce system inflicted trauma on victim-survivors of sexual violence, supporting them through the challenging process of navigating therapeutic and criminal justice pathways.Critical to the success of multidisciplinary teams is strong leadership, a victim-centric culture, and clearly defined roles and responsibilities for partner agencies.Under Tasmania’s two-year pilot, one multidisciplinary centre will be established in the south and one in the north.These centres will feature sexual assault support services, child safety officers and sex crimes investigators.The centres will feature specifically designed facilities for use by family violence counselling support services, witness intermediaries, and specialist services as required, delivering a coordinated response, tailored to individual victim-survivor needs. |

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| You have received this email because you requested updates from the Sexual and Family Violence Project about the progress of the multidisciplinary centres.If you no longer wish to receive updates, please email: mdc@dpfem.tas.gov.au to be removed from our distribution list.\*IMPORTANT: Please do not reply to this email - this account is not monitored\* |

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