



LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officers

Infosheet

- Tasmania Police want members of the LGBTIQA+ community to feel safe and supported when reporting a crime.
- Dedicated Tasmania Police LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officers are available to support members of the LGBTIQA+ community.
- To speak with an LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officer, email LGBTIQA.Liaison@dpfem.tas.gov.au or call 131 444 and ask for a referral to a LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officer.

LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officers

Tasmania Police recognises that past actions and experiences can result in people being fearful and apprehensive of police.

However, we are highly committed as an organisation to supporting the LGBTIQA+ community, and are proud to be one of the first Australian police services to educate and inform police recruits about the lived experiences of LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians.

We continue to build on that proud history by ensuring our services are delivered fairly and inclusively to all, and through the services of our Tasmania Police LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officers.

Tasmania Police LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officers are police officers located throughout the state who can provide discrete advice on crimes and offences.

The LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officers' role is to contribute to the creation of mutual trust between police and the LGBTIQA+ community, and to increase members' confidence in police through the provision of a fair and equitable policing service.

If you'd like to speak with an LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officer, you can be confident that they have a deep understanding of the intricacies and issues that the LGBTIQA+ community faces.

Liaison Officers may not always be immediately available at all police stations, however you can contact your nearest LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officer via the Tasmania Police switchboard on **131 444.*

Crimes motivated by prejudice

A prejudice-motivated crime is a crime or offence carried out, at least in part, because of a person's bias or hatred of another person or group's perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, race, religion, ethnicity, or other related attributes.

Prejudiced-motivated crimes – such as homophobic, biphobic or transphobic offences – can be ongoing, and can be extremely traumatic.

These crimes are not limited to assault, and may also include other common crimes and offences including property damage, robberies and theft.

Where to go for help

- **In an emergency, always call police on triple zero (000).**
- Report prejudice-motivated crimes or offences to any police officer at any police station, or contact an LGBTIQ+ Liaison Officer for advice.
- Report bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, and vilification breaches of the Tasmanian *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998* to Equal Opportunity Tasmania (the office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner) by calling **1300 305 062** or email office@equalopportunity.tas.gov.au.

Family Violence

The *Family Violence Act 2004* defines family violence as conduct committed by a person, directly or indirectly, against that person's spouse or partner including:

- assault – including sexual assault
- threats, coercion, intimidation or verbal abuse
- abduction, stalking, economic abuse
- emotional abuse or intimidation.

Some forms of abuse are unique to LGBTIQ+ relationships.

Abusive partners may attempt to control and manipulate you in a variety of different ways, including:

- threatening to or 'outing' you as gay or trans to friends, family and work
- telling you no one will believe you or care because the police and courts are prejudiced against LGBTIQ+ people
- telling you that you deserve it because you are same-sex attracted
- telling you that you 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 you by portraying the violence as mutual or consensual combat.

Never think that an abusive partner's violence is your fault.

Where to go for help

- **In an emergency, always call police on triple zero (000).**
- Seek advice by speaking to any police officer at any police station, or ask to speak with an LGBTIQ+ Liaison Officer.
- Contact the Family Violence Response and Referral Line on **1800 633 937**.
- Find out more on same-sex relationship violence from [AnotherCloset – Home \(acon.org.au\)](http://AnotherCloset-Home.acon.org.au).

Make a report

Any police officer at any police station is able to take a report of crime.

When attending a police station, you can ask to conduct your business in a private room.

If, at any time, you feel that you are not being treated fairly, you can ask to speak with another police officer or an LGBTIQ+ Liaison Officer*.

LGBTIQ+ Liaison Officers can help by giving discrete advice and assistance on crimes and offences, and can also provide expert advice to police investigators.

In an emergency, always call police on triple zero (000), or contact any police station on 131 444.

Liaison Officers may not always be immediately available at all police stations, however you can contact your nearest LGBTIQ+ Liaison Officer via the Tasmania Police switchboard on **131 444.*

Where to get help

- **In an emergency, always call police on triple zero (000).**
- Tasmania Police – **131 444** (non-emergency phone line).
- [Working It Out](#) – **6231 1200**
- [Rainbow Communities Tasmania](#)
- [QLife](#) nationwide phone counselling for LGBTIQ+ people – **1800 184 527**
- [Family Violence Counselling and Support Service](#) – **1800 608 122**
- [Family Violence Response and Referral Line](#) – 1800 633 937
- [Equal Opportunity Tasmania](#) – **1300 305 062**