



Joint Submission

Second Action Plan under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032

**Submitted by Hobart Women's Shelter, Launceston Women's Shelter (Magnolia Place) and
North West Tasmania Women's Shelter**

Core message

Women and children should not have to choose between violence and homelessness.

Housing, safety and recovery are inseparable.

**Specialist women's shelters must be recognised and funded as critical family violence
infrastructure and recovery hubs.**

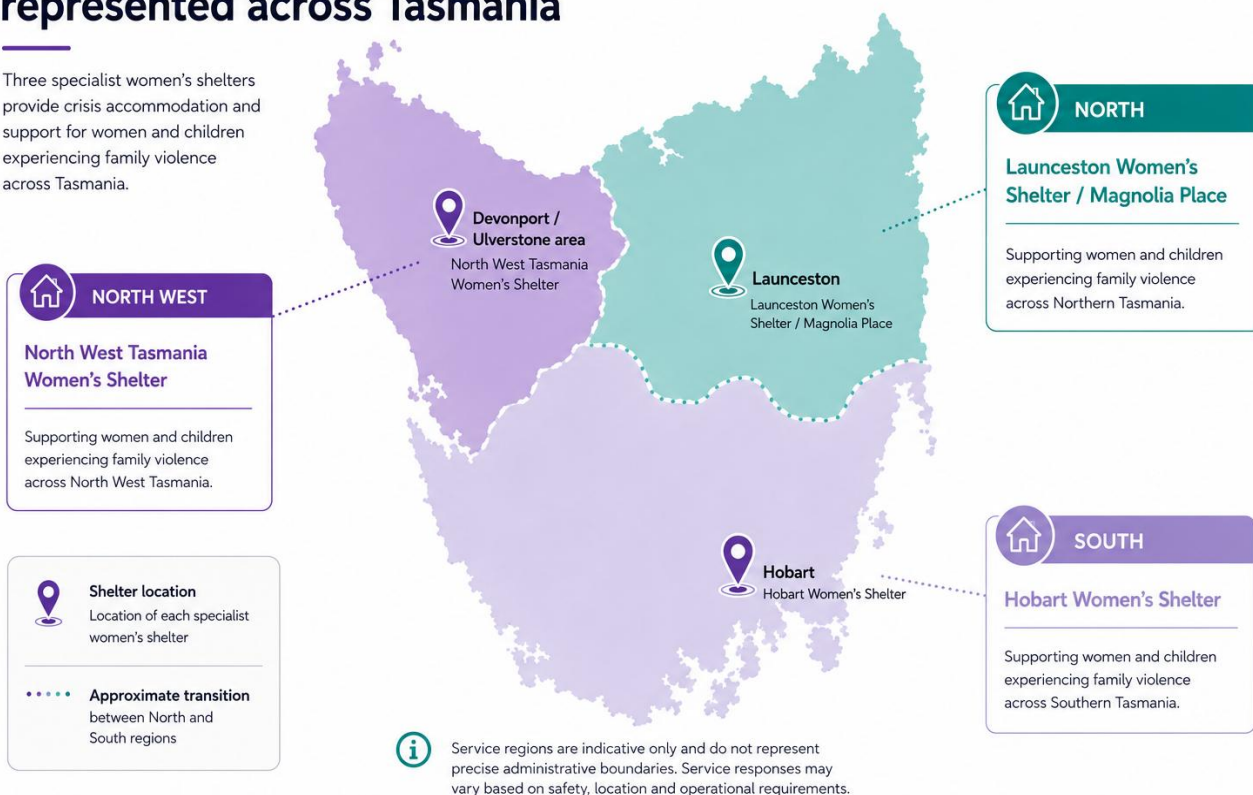
Introduction

Hobart Women's Shelter (HWS), Launceston Women's Shelter, also known as Magnolia Place (LWS), and North West Tasmania Women's Shelter (NWTWS) welcome the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Second Action Plan under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032. As illustrated in Figure 1, the three shelters collectively provide specialist support across Southern, Northern and North West Tasmania, highlighting the statewide evidence base that informs the findings and recommendations presented in this submission.

Figure 1. Specialist women's shelters contributing to this joint submission, delivering services across Southern, Northern and North West Tasmania.

Specialist women's shelters represented across Tasmania

Three specialist women's shelters provide crisis accommodation and support for women and children experiencing family violence across Tasmania.



Together, our organisations provide specialist crisis accommodation, family violence responses, housing support, complex case management, advocacy and recovery services across Tasmania. Although we operate in different regions across the state, our experience is consistent: women and children are being turned away from seeking safety because services are full, pathways for families to exit into long-term housing are extremely limited, and specialist women's shelters are being asked to respond to increasingly complex family violence needs within funding models that do not reflect the reality of service delivery.

We support the Consultation Paper's priority areas, including victim-survivor safety, prevention and early intervention, children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right, and system integration and workforce capability. However, the Second Action Plan will fall short of its objectives unless it addresses the intersection between housing, homelessness and family violence (Department of Social Services and ANROWS, 2026).

While the Consultation Paper appropriately recognises housing, crisis accommodation and integrated service responses as part of broader system reform, it does not yet treat housing as a core family violence intervention in its own right. This is a critical gap. For women and children escaping violence, housing is not only a service pathway or recovery outcome; it is safety infrastructure. Without urgent investment in crisis accommodation, long-term social housing and specialist shelter-based supports, women and children will continue to be forced to choose between violence and homelessness.

The recommendations in this submission support the National Plan’s focus areas and respond directly to the Second Action Plan priorities by addressing one of the most significant structural barriers to safety: the lack of safe, affordable and appropriate housing for women and children escaping violence.

This is particularly urgent in Tasmania, where specialist women’s shelters are not adequately recognised within state-based planning and funding settings. National commitments will only improve safety and recovery if they translate into state-level policy, commissioning and recurrent investment; otherwise, Tasmanian services will continue to be disadvantaged and women and children will continue to face avoidable barriers to safety.

Alignment with National Plan focus areas and Second Action Plan priorities

This submission aligns with the National Plan’s four focus areas — prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery and healing — and responds to key Second Action Plan priority areas, including victim-survivor safety, children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right, and stronger system integration and workforce capability.

National Plan / Second Action Plan alignment	How this submission contributes
Prevention	Addresses the structural conditions that increase risk and limit safety, particularly the shortage of crisis accommodation, social housing and safe family-sized homes for women and children escaping violence.
Early intervention	Supports earlier access to specialist family violence response, counselling, legal assistance, child-focused support and safety planning before risk escalates further.
Response	Strengthens specialist women’s shelters as core family violence services and place-based recovery hubs, rather than treating them only as homelessness services.
Recovery and healing	Promotes stable housing, therapeutic support, integrated service responses and child-centred recovery as foundations for long-term safety, wellbeing and healing.
Victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence	Centres the safety, housing stability and recovery needs of women and children escaping violence, and argues that access to safe accommodation is a core condition for victim-survivor safety.
Prevention and early intervention	Demonstrates how earlier housing and specialist support can prevent escalation, reduce repeat crisis presentations and create safer pathways out of violence before risk becomes entrenched.
Children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right	Calls for child-centred practice, dedicated child practitioners, therapeutic supports, parenting support and family-sized housing so children are supported in their own right, not only as accompanying dependents.
System integration and workforce	Calls for integrated, place-based service models, dual funding streams across housing and family violence portfolios, and recurrent investment in specialist practitioners, Aboriginal liaison and outreach, and regional workforce capacity.

Summary of recommendations

Recommendation	What is needed	National Plan / Second Action Plan alignment
1. Recognise housing as core family violence infrastructure	Treat housing as safety infrastructure and embed it in family violence policy.	Prevention; response; recovery and healing
2. Establish a National Family Violence Housing Framework	Create a coordinated framework linking crisis accommodation, long-term housing pathways and integrated family violence supports.	Response; recovery and healing; system integration and workforce
3. Create dual funding streams across housing and family violence portfolios	Implement dual funding models that match housing and homelessness investment with dedicated family violence funding, ensuring specialist women's shelters are funded for both accommodation and specialist family violence, child, legal, therapeutic and housing supports.	Response; recovery and healing; system integration and workforce
4. Fund place-based specialist practitioners	Enable shelters to employ or host legal, counselling, child, mental health, financial counselling and family violence specialists.	Early intervention; response; recovery and healing; system integration and workforce
5. Fund models that support children as victim-survivors in their own right within crisis accommodation contexts	Invest in the implementation of a child-centred practice approach, including access to child practitioners, developmental and trauma recovery supports, parenting support services and child-centred housing design, play spaces and programs.	Early intervention; recovery and healing; children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right
6. Dedicate social housing supply to women and children escaping violence	Use national housing programs and intergovernmental mechanisms to dedicate new homes to women and children escaping violence, ensuring women and children have long-term housing pathways out of crisis accommodation facilities, when safe to do so, supported by trauma-informed design principles.	Prevention; response; recovery and healing; victim-survivor safety
7. Increase the supply of family-sized housing	Prioritise multi-bedroom homes suitable for women and children escaping violence.	Prevention; response; recovery and healing; children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right
8. Fund Aboriginal liaison and outreach support for women's shelters	Fund Aboriginal liaison and outreach workers employed by Aboriginal organisations to support shelters in integrating culturally safe responses, enabling shelters to connect women and children with culturally safe supports.	Response; recovery and healing; culturally safe responses for Aboriginal women and children
9. Adopt place-based commissioning for regions experiencing concentrated disadvantage	Enable locally tailored responses for regional communities facing high violence rates, limited housing and workforce shortages. Ensure funding is needs-based, allowing services to expand in line with capacity requirements.	Response; recovery and healing; system integration and workforce
10. Develop a National Housing and Family Violence Outcomes Framework	Measure long-term outcomes including housing stability, reduced returns to violence, safety, recovery and children's wellbeing.	Response; recovery and healing; housing stability; safety; children's wellbeing

1. Housing is a family violence issue

The Second Action Plan should explicitly recognise safe, affordable and appropriate housing as a core family violence intervention and safety response. Housing policy and family violence policy must be developed together, with dedicated investment in crisis accommodation, long-term social housing pathways and specialist supports for women and children escaping violence.

Housing must be treated as a central pillar of the Second Action Plan, not as a peripheral issue sitting alongside family violence responses. The evidence is clear that housing has become one of the most significant barriers to safety for

women and children escaping violence. Housing is not simply an outcome of recovery; it is a precondition for safety, stabilisation and long-term recovery.

Tasmanian evidence from *Somewhere to Go*

The Tasmanian report *Somewhere to Go: Meeting the Housing Needs of Women and Children in Tasmania* found that homelessness amongst Tasmanian women increased by 50 per cent between 2016 and 2021, Tasmania has more than six times the national rate of women being turned away from crisis accommodation, and an estimated 933 Tasmanian women each year return to a violent partner or enter homelessness after family violence because appropriate housing is unavailable (Impact Economics and Policy, Shelter Tasmania and Hobart Women's Shelter, 2023).

The report also found that only 6 per cent of Tasmanian women with long-term housing needs have those needs met, compared with 18 per cent of men. Women under 50 were particularly disadvantaged, with only 4 per cent having long-term housing needs met. Around 63 per cent of women on Tasmania's housing register require multi-bedroom accommodation, compared with approximately 30 per cent of men (Impact Economics and Policy, Shelter Tasmania and Hobart Women's Shelter, 2023).

Somewhere to Go estimates that Tasmania requires at least 4,239 additional social housing properties to meet the housing needs of women and children, including 938 additional properties specifically for women fleeing family violence (Impact Economics and Policy, Shelter Tasmania and Hobart Women's Shelter, 2023).

The economic case for investing in housing and specialist shelter responses

The economic argument is equally clear. KPMG's national costing work for the Department of Social Services estimated that violence against women and their children cost Australia \$22 billion in 2015–16, with costs borne by victim-survivors, children, employers, communities and governments through health, justice, income support, productivity, housing and long-term social impacts (KPMG, 2016). In Tasmania, *Somewhere to Go* shows how these national costs are intensified by acute housing scarcity: when an estimated 933 Tasmanian women each year return to violence or enter homelessness because suitable housing is unavailable, avoidable costs are shifted onto crisis homelessness, health, policing, child safety, courts and specialist family violence systems. Investment in crisis accommodation, social housing and shelter-based specialist supports should therefore be understood not only as a safety and human rights obligation, but as a cost-avoidance and productivity measure for Tasmania.

National supporting evidence from *Nowhere to Go*

The national Equity Economics report, *Nowhere to Go: The Benefits of Providing Long-Term Social Housing to Women Who Have Experienced Domestic and Family Violence*, reinforces the same policy conclusion at a national scale. The report found that family and domestic violence is the primary reason women and children seek specialist homelessness services, yet only 3.2 per cent are receiving the long-term housing solutions they need (Equity Economics, 2021).

The report estimated that, based on pre-pandemic incidence of domestic and family violence, approximately 7,690 women each year return to perpetrators because they have nowhere affordable to live, and approximately 9,120 women each year become homeless after leaving their homes due to domestic and family violence and being unable to secure long-term housing. It identified an immediate national need for 16,810 additional social housing units for women escaping domestic and family violence (Equity Economics, 2021).

Service-level evidence from HWS and NWTWS

These findings are also reflected in the direct service experience of HWS, LWS and NWTWS.

Taken together, the evidence from Southern, Northern and North West Tasmania demonstrates that current demand for specialist women's crisis accommodation substantially exceeds capacity across the state. The consistency of these findings across diverse regions indicates a systemic shortage of family violence accommodation and housing pathways rather than isolated local pressures.

Table 1. Evidence base and policy implications

Evidence source	What the data shows	Implication for the Second Action Plan
Hobart Women's Shelter	In FY25, 959 women and children sought emergency accommodation. Only 137 were accommodated. 822 were turned away due to capacity constraints. Of women accessing accommodation in FY25, 75% had experienced family violence and 73% sought accommodation due to housing stress (Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025).	The scale of demand demonstrates that specialist women's shelters cannot continue to rely on short-term and philanthropic funding to meet core family violence and housing needs. The Second Action Plan should provide recurrent investment in specialist shelter responses as a core component of Australia's family violence system.
North West Tasmania Women's Shelter	Four out of five women and children seeking accommodation are turned away. Average lengths of stay increased from 39 days to 179 days in two years. Social housing waiting periods exceed 85 weeks. The North West Coast is an identified 'family violence hotspot' and experiences family violence rates close to three times the national average (NWTWS, 2026).	The complexity of women's and children's experiences of family violence in North West Tasmania demonstrates that increasing accommodation alone is insufficient. The Second Action Plan should uplift funding for regional, rural and remote areas, fund regional women's shelters as specialist family violence services and ensure any future accommodation expansion is accompanied by recurrent funding for specialist staffing, comprehensive risk management and safety planning, collaborative responses with other service providers including police and family and sexual violence services, access to counselling, child-focused supports and recovery services.
Launceston Women's Shelter / Magnolia Place	Between July 2025 and March 2026, Magnolia Place received requests for emergency accommodation from 2,327 women and children, including repeat contacts from the same presentation. Only 174 women and children could be accommodated. More than 90% were unable to access a bed at the time of need, including 1,092 women and 1,205 children seeking accommodation and support.	Northern Tasmania's unmet demand reinforces the need to treat crisis accommodation as a core family and domestic violence intervention. The Second Action Plan should invest in immediate safety responses, housing pathways and integrated family violence supports, not crisis beds alone.
Somewhere to Go	Tasmania has more than six times the national rate of women being turned away from crisis accommodation. 933 women each year return to violence or enter homelessness after family violence due to lack of housing (Impact Economics and Policy, Shelter Tasmania and Hobart Women's Shelter, 2023).	Independent Tasmanian evidence confirms that housing must be treated as safety infrastructure in family violence policy.
KPMG economic costing	KPMG estimated that violence against women and their children cost Australia \$22 billion in 2015–16, including costs across health, justice, productivity, children's impacts, income support, housing and broader social impacts (KPMG, 2016).	The Second Action Plan should treat investment in housing, specialist shelters and integrated supports as economic infrastructure that reduces avoidable downstream costs for health, justice, child safety, homelessness and income support systems.
Specialist women's shelters	HWS and NWTWS evidence demonstrates that women's shelters are not simply homelessness services. They are specialist family violence services responding to the intersection of violence, housing insecurity and homelessness (Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025; North West Tasmania Women's Shelter, 2026).	The Second Action Plan should recognise and fund specialist women's shelters as family violence services and local recovery hubs.

2. Specialist women's shelters are delivering family violence recovery and healing services

Specialist women's shelters should not be viewed primarily as housing or homelessness providers. They are specialist family and domestic violence services that use accommodation as a critical safety intervention. Accommodation is often the mechanism through which women and children can safely escape violence, engage with support services and begin recovery. Women accessing our services frequently experience family violence, housing insecurity, mental health challenges, financial abuse, legal issues, child safety concerns, disability and intergenerational trauma simultaneously. The systems designed to support them are often fragmented and difficult to navigate.

The service-level evidence in Table 1 shows that the same pressure is being experienced across different Tasmanian regions. Women and children are being turned away because accommodation is unavailable, while longer stays and limited housing exits reduce the capacity of shelters to respond to new crisis presentations.

The evidence in Table 1 demonstrates the need for the Second Action Plan to recognise and fund specialist women's shelters, including HWS, LWS and NWTWS, as family violence recovery and healing services.

Failure to provide timely crisis accommodation increases demand across health, justice, child protection, policing and homelessness systems. Investment in specialist women's shelters delivers benefits beyond immediate safety by reducing longer-term costs associated with family violence, homelessness and repeat crisis interventions.

3. Place-based specialist responses improve safety and recovery outcomes

The case for place-based specialist responses is supported by both research evidence and HWS service-level data. Place-based models are particularly important in a family violence context because women and children often need housing, counselling, legal assistance, child-focused therapeutic support, financial support, safety planning and advocacy at the same time.

Safe and Equal defines best practice integrated service delivery as multiple organisations working together so victim-survivors can access holistic supports more effectively and comprehensively. Its work identifies benefits for victim-survivors, service providers and the broader system, while also recognising the difficulty of sustaining integrated practice in a fragmented funding and service environment (Safe and Equal, 2021). This collective of women's shelters in Tasmania is working towards this best-practice approach; however, this is increasingly difficult with minimal funding and no specific family violence funding.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s review of integrated service delivery for intimate partner violence found that women experiencing gender-based violence often require mental and physical health services, access to justice, housing support and help for children. It also found that integrated service delivery is commonly introduced through case management, warm referrals and co-located delivery, including at emergency housing and shelter entry points (OECD, 2023).

Australian Institute of Family Studies evidence on trauma-informed care also supports this approach. AIFS notes that fragmented or uninformed responses can be re-traumatising, and that trauma-informed practice promotes safety, trust, dignity, engagement and help-seeking, while seeking to actively avoid re-traumatisation (AIFS, 2016; AIFS, 2025).

Evidence call-out: why Recommendation 4 matters

- Integrated service delivery enables victim-survivors to access holistic support more effectively and comprehensively, and can improve victim-survivor outcomes and service system efficiency (Safe and Equal, 2021).
- Victim-survivors often require health, justice, housing and child-focused supports at the same time. Integrated service delivery commonly uses case management, warm referral pathways and physically co-located services, including through emergency housing and shelter entry points (OECD, 2023).
- Integrated approaches can reduce the burden of repeated disclosure across services and support smoother referral pathways, which is particularly important for trauma-informed practice (OECD, 2023; AIFS, 2016; AIFS, 2025).
- HWS evidence shows the practical value of shelter-based specialists, including embedded legal support, family violence counselling, waitlist relief and therapeutic supports for children (Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025).

Evidence from HWS place-based specialist supports

HWS has already demonstrated the value of embedding specialist supports directly within the shelter environment. These place-based supports reduce barriers, provide timely help and extend assistance to families staying at HWS as well as women unable to be accommodated due to limited capacity (Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025).

- Embedded legal support: Through the Just Healthy Families Health, Justice and Housing Partnership, a specialist casework lawyer was based at HWS. Between 2022 and late 2024, the role assisted 98 women and 113 children, including 32% who could not be accommodated due to lack of space, and addressed 256 legal issues (Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025).
- Embedded family violence counselling: HWS partnered with Engender Equality to pilot a place-based Family Violence Counsellor role. The HWS Annual Report records 185 direct support hours and 93 indirect support hours to 26 women, including women who could not access accommodation because of capacity constraints (Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025).
- Waitlist evidence from Engender Equality: HWS's grant application records advice that the current wait time for specialist family violence counselling in Southern Tasmania is 12–18 months, demonstrating why immediate, shelter-based counselling is an important access pathway for women in crisis (Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025; Engender Equality advice cited in HWS grant application).
- Child-centred recovery supports: HWS's partnership with the Australian Childhood Foundation provides therapeutic play and adjunct care so children can access support while mothers attend counselling and parenting programs (Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025).

Together, these examples demonstrate that specialist women's shelters can function as local family violence recovery hubs. Embedding legal, counselling and therapeutic support for children within shelters addresses immediate safety needs while also supporting longer-term healing, stability and recovery (Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025). This model could be implemented across other shelters in the state.

Relevance to regional and rural Tasmania

The place-based model is equally important in regional areas such as North West Tasmania, where family violence prevalence, transport barriers, geographic isolation, housing supply, workforce availability and limited specialist service access compound risk. Funding models should support local commissioning or direct employment of specialists so regional shelters can tailor responses to local need rather than applying uniform service models across very different communities (NWTWS, 2026).

4. Children must be recognised as victim-survivors

The Consultation Paper appropriately recognises children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right. This recognition must be accompanied by dedicated investment.

In FY25, 539 children sought emergency accommodation through HWS and 486 children were turned away due to a lack of capacity (Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025). Somewhere to Go found that women with children are disproportionately affected by housing shortages, with around 63 per cent of women on Tasmania's housing register requiring multi-bedroom accommodation compared with approximately 30 per cent of men (Impact Economics and Policy, Shelter Tasmania and Hobart Women's Shelter, 2023).

Children's recovery outcomes depend on access to stable housing, therapeutic supports and specialist child-focused interventions. The shortage of crisis and long-term housing options therefore directly affects children's safety and recovery.

NWTWS is currently leading a project to develop a best-practice approach to child-centred practice within crisis accommodation. Ongoing funding will be required to implement this model and ensure children are supported as victim-survivors in their own right. The desired outcome is that, across shelters in Tasmania, specialist practitioners can be employed to ensure that all children have their own dedicated support plan and access to therapeutic care as required.

5. Women require integrated housing, family violence and mental health responses

Somewhere to Go found that 53 per cent of women seeking Specialist Homelessness Services in Tasmania experience mental health issues, compared with 33 per cent nationally (Impact Economics and Policy, Shelter Tasmania and Hobart Women's Shelter, 2023). This finding reflects what shelters experience daily.

Women escaping violence frequently require support across multiple systems simultaneously, including housing, family violence, mental health, legal, child safety and financial supports. Current funding frameworks separate these responses and create unnecessary barriers. The Second Action Plan presents an opportunity to move beyond siloed service systems and invest in integrated responses that reflect the complexity of women's lives.

Detailed recommendations

Recommendation 1: Recognise housing as a core family violence intervention

The Second Action Plan should explicitly recognise safe, affordable and appropriate housing as a core family violence intervention and safety response. Housing policy and family violence policy must be developed together, with dedicated investment in crisis accommodation, long-term social housing pathways and specialist supports for women and children escaping violence.

The Second Action Plan should also recognise that, where specialist family violence funding has not been dedicated to specialist housing facilities for women and children, service deficits and delivery pressures have deepened. This must be rectified through dedicated and recurrent investment.

Recommendation 2: Establish a National Family Violence Housing Framework

Develop a nationally coordinated framework linking housing, homelessness and family violence responses, with specific targets for women and children escaping violence. This framework should include crisis accommodation, transitional housing, long-term social housing, private rental pathways and integrated supports.

Recommendation 3: Create dual funding streams across housing and family violence portfolios

Specialist women's shelters, including HWS, LWS and NWTWS, should receive integrated funding that recognises both their accommodation function and their role as specialist family violence services and recovery hubs. Capital investment in buildings must be accompanied by recurrent operational funding for specialist family violence, child, legal, therapeutic and housing supports.

Recommendation 4: Fund specialist women's shelters to employ or host place-based specialist practitioners

The Second Action Plan should establish dedicated funding that enables specialist shelters to directly employ or permanently embed Family Violence Counsellors, Child and Young Person Practitioners, Specialist Family Violence Practitioners, Casework Lawyers, Financial Counsellors and Mental Health Clinicians, while also establishing culturally safe referral and outreach pathways with Aboriginal organisations. Research on integrated and co-located family violence responses supports this approach, and HWS's experience demonstrates that shelter-based legal, counselling and child-focused therapeutic supports reduce barriers, support timely access and help women and children avoid navigating fragmented systems alone (Safe and Equal, 2021; OECD, 2023; AIFS, 2016; Hobart Women's Shelter, 2025). This approach is particularly important in regional communities, including North West Tasmania, where workforce shortages and limited specialist service availability can create additional barriers to accessing support.

Recommendation 5: Fund children as victim-survivors in their own right

Provide dedicated funding for specialist therapeutic, child-centred responses within shelters, including access to child practitioners, developmental and trauma recovery supports, parenting support services, child-centred housing design, play spaces and programs.

Recommendation 6: Incentivise states and territories to dedicate social housing supply to women and children escaping violence

The Second Action Plan should use funding agreements, national housing programs and intergovernmental mechanisms to incentivise states and territories, when planning and building new social and affordable housing, to dedicate a defined proportion of new homes to women and children escaping family, domestic and sexual violence. This should include crisis accommodation and long-term social housing pathways, with an emphasis on safe, appropriate, family-sized and trauma-informed design. This approach responds to the Tasmanian and national evidence summarised in Table 1 and in *Somewhere to Go* and *Nowhere to Go*.

Recommendation 7: Increase the supply of family-sized housing

Future housing programs should prioritise the development of multi-bedroom homes suitable for women and children escaping violence, reflecting the need for family-sized accommodation identified in *Somewhere to Go*.

Recommendation 8: Fund Aboriginal liaison and outreach support for women's shelters

The Second Action Plan should fund Aboriginal liaison and outreach roles employed by Aboriginal organisations to regularly visit specialist women's shelters and support Aboriginal women and children to connect with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, culturally safe family violence services, housing supports, health services and healing programs. This approach would strengthen culturally safe pathways without expecting every shelter to deliver all specialist Aboriginal services directly. Over 20% of women and children staying at HWS identify as Aboriginal, reinforcing the need for practical, trusted referral pathways and culturally safe support within mainstream shelter responses.

Recommendation 9: Adopt place-based commissioning for regions experiencing concentrated disadvantage

Within the Tasmanian context, and reflecting challenges experienced across the state, North West Tasmania faces distinct pressures relating to family violence prevalence, housing supply and access to services. The response in North West Tasmania requires urgent uplift to meet demand and respond to the increasing complexity of women and children requiring support. Funding models should enable locally tailored responses, including regional commissioning and recurrent funding for specialist supports attached to shelter expansion.

Recent public reporting further confirms the scale of system pressure in Tasmania. An independent review commissioned by Tasmania Police found that family violence incidents have increased by 250 per cent over the past decade, while ABC News reporting noted that Tasmania Police responded to 6,488 family violence incidents in the last financial year—more than 1,000 higher than the previous year (Jaggers, 2026).

Recommendation 10: Develop a National Housing and Family Violence Outcomes Framework

Measure success not simply through bed numbers or service outputs, but through long-term outcomes including housing stability, reduced returns to violence, reduced homelessness, safety, recovery and children's wellbeing. The finding that only 6 per cent of Tasmanian women with long-term housing needs currently have those needs met highlights the importance of measuring outcomes beyond crisis response.

Conclusion

The evidence from Hobart Women's Shelter, Launceston Women's Shelter, North West Tasmania Women's Shelter, *Somewhere to Go*, *Nowhere to Go* and broader research on integrated family violence service delivery is clear: women and children cannot access safety, stability or recovery without safe housing and specialist support.

The Second Action Plan must therefore move beyond recognising the connection between housing, homelessness and family violence and commit to funding the responses that make safety possible. Housing must be embedded as core family violence infrastructure, and specialist women's shelters must be recognised and resourced as essential family violence services and recovery hubs.

We call on the Commonwealth to ensure the Second Action Plan delivers dedicated, recurrent and accountable investment in crisis accommodation, long-term housing pathways, specialist women's shelters, child-centred supports, culturally safe pathways and integrated place-based services. These commitments should be backed by clear targets, intergovernmental accountability and funding mechanisms that reach frontline specialist services.

Without this action, women and children in Tasmania and across Australia will continue to be forced to choose between violence and homelessness. With decisive national leadership and sustained investment, the Second Action Plan can create the conditions for safety, recovery and long-term change.

References and evidence-base

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