



**hobart,  
women's  
shelter**

**2021/2022**

# **Annual Report**

## **Welcome to the Hobart Women's Shelter**

We provide safe, emergency accommodation and support to women and children affected by family violence and/or those experiencing homelessness.



**[www.hobartws.org.au](http://www.hobartws.org.au)**

## Our Year in Numbers

1182

Total number of 558 women and 624 children seeking assistance

943

Total number of women and children not receiving assistance  
447 children  
496 women

239

Total number of women and children receiving assistance  
128 children  
111 women

92.66%

occupancy rate for crisis units

43.8%

of women had a long term housing outcome

59.7%

women and children presenting for family violence – a 13% increase from FY21

16.5%

of women and children presenting for housing affordability and housing crisis stress

Total number of units

25 crisis units

7 transitional

accommodation properties

11 families were

supported in Transitional Accommodation

## Message from the Chair and the CEO

The lack of permanent housing for women and children fleeing family violence and/or experiencing homelessness continues to significantly impact the Hobart Women's Shelter. As the waitlist on the Social Housing Register continues to rise and the cost of private rentals increases, women and children are staying longer at the Shelter, meaning less women and children can access our service.

From 1st July 2021 – 30th June 2022, 558 women and 624 accompanying children from across Tasmania sought crisis accommodation at the Hobart Women's Shelter. 943 women and children seeking accommodation at the Hobart Women's Shelter were turned away due to a lack of space - that's 8 out of 10 women - an increase of 61 when compared with FY21. The number of women we turn away is more than double the national figures. These statistics are reflective of those who know to ring the Hobart Women's Shelter, and it is likely that the demand for crisis accommodation in Hobart is significantly greater.

In January 2022, we launched our 'Buy a Brick' fundraising campaign to support our strategic aspiration to build 25 long term homes by 2024. With the support of Buy a Brick, generous donors, and philanthropists, we have purchased our first block of land and secured the funds to build our first two homes, due for completion in 2023. The design of these homes is centred on the specific needs of women and children. We continue to explore opportunities to achieve our goals and welcome new partnerships to help us build more homes in the future.

We continue to work with the sector to inform policy decisions and funding allocations that consider a gender-responsive approach to housing and specialist services.

Throughout the year, we launched our first Practice Framework. Underpinned by trauma-informed practice principles, our Practice Commitment strives to achieve best practice in all that we do through safety, trust, empowerment, choice, and collaboration.

This year, our volunteer team grew to 10, with several new volunteers coming onboard for specific roles such as kids' homework club and choir groups. We would like to acknowledge the dedication and work of all our volunteers, and our Volunteer Coordinator Sue, who have all given many hours of their time to support our therapeutic programs and events.

To our dedicated and passionate team, thank you for your hard work, professionalism, humility, and respect. As noted earlier, it has been a difficult year, and there have been many conversations with women who are turned away, creating a feeling of helplessness and grief.

To our Board, thank you for providing your time to ensure our strategic direction is clear and we are on track to achieve our goals.

We are excited about the future of the Hobart Women's Shelter, and will work to continue our Vision to, "Create a safe and inclusive community free from violence, inequality, and injustice".

**Miriam Moreton, Chair, and Janet Saunders, CEO**

## Our Year in Highlights

### Creating long-term homes for women and children

This year, we embarked on an ambitious project to build 25 new permanent homes for women and children by 2024. This is in addition to the Shelter's existing 25 emergency housing units – creating 50 homes to mark 50 years of service.

We have developed an architecturally designed two-bedroom house prototype and replica. We are exploring rapid assembly methods to reduce construction time and cost. Based on discussions with women with lived experience of violence and homelessness, we aim to create homes that are uniquely designed to ensure safety, respect, and connection to the community. The prototype incorporates research on trauma-informed design.

Our learnings from this prototype build will inform future development and strategy for the Shelter.

In April, we purchased a block of land in Herdsman's Cove. We used donations received from our supporters and have lodged our building Development Application. With the support of our Buy a Brick fundraising campaign, we have raised the money to build these first two homes, with anticipated completion by April 2023.

### Pro Bono Consultants and Business Donors

We would like to acknowledge the local businesses and consultants who have provided discounted and/or free services and products to support the creation of long-term homes for women and children.

Thank you to: Brighton City Council, Christopher Clinton Architects, Core Collective, Don Thomson, Enviro-dynamics, Exsto Management, Gandy and Roberts, Gray Planning, Howarth Fisher and Associates, Law and Development Partners, Lee Tyers Building Surveyors, Red Sustainability, Tierney Law, Veris. We would also like to give special acknowledgement to Cate Sumner from Law and Development Partners, Emily Taylor, Ceridwen Owen and Ryan Strating from Core Collective, and Christopher Clinton, Christopher Clinton Architects. It is a privilege to have you on our team. Your commitment, contribution and passion for this project has created innovation and many opportunities to be explored.

### Elsie Cameron Foundation

A long-time supporter of the Shelter and our Therapeutic Programs, this year, the Elsie Cameron Foundation made a significant donation to ensure the completion of our first two homes. On behalf of all of us at the Hobart Women's Shelter, we thank the Elsie Cameron Foundation for their continued generosity and investment. This enables us to test our design principles and showcase the quality of our homes before we take the design to scale on other land that becomes available, and we work towards our 2024 aspiration.

### Call to Action from Government House

In February, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker hosted a women's working housing meeting at Government House. The event was attended by national and state government, philanthropists, councils, and business leaders. The Shelter presented three perspectives on innovative design and planning for women's social housing needs and put out a call to action to increase the number of permanent homes for women and children in Tasmania. The event opened a network of connections and opportunities, and we are continuing these conversations to create long-term homes for women and children.

### Health Justice Partnership

Women's Legal Tasmania and Tasmania Legal Aid have established Tasmania's first Health Justice Partnership, Just Healthy Families. This is a free confidential legal outreach service. This year, the HWS was asked to join the Health Justice Partnership Steering Committee.

A key issue for women approaching the Shelter is accessing assistance with property matters such as the division of assets like the family home, tenancy issues and other related legal issues. Property matters can take a considerable amount of time to resolve over several months and due to funding issues, there are limited options for women needing this support.

This year, with support from the Estate of James Simpson Love, we have received funding to employ a lawyer. This role will support women to resolve their property and legal matters, and enhance their economic and financial security outcomes.

## Therapeutic Programs

We offer a holistic range of therapeutic programs to empower women and children to lead independent and fulfilling lives. Every program has an emphasis on promoting wellbeing, enhancing self-esteem, confidence, and interpersonal growth. Programs are designed to encourage individual capacity building and empowerment through individual and shared experiences.

This year, our therapeutic programs team expanded as we recruited a Children's Specialist to better support child-focused programs. Throughout the year, we deliver 244 group, family, and individual programs including: art therapy, self-care, Cook and Connect cooking classes in partnership with Government House, Clay workshops supported by Glazed and Confused, Social Circus workshops, Communal Meals, Gardening, celebrating NAIDOC week, Christmas workshops and events, Physical health programs in partnership with Women in Sport including bushwalking, badminton, yoga, self-defence, movie nights, and environmental and sustainability workshops.

Further highlights included:

- + A half-day visit from Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker, who participated in the Cook and Connect programs with residents
- + Our group excursion to Government House for our Christmas party
- + A communal meal where an Afghani woman and her daughter sang songs to one another while they handmade traditional dumplings for hours to feed the entire Shelter

## New website and logo!

This year, it was time to update our website in alignment with our strategic direction, and with that, came a refresh of our brand. Paying tribute to our original and trusted logo, our new logo concept captures the shelter and our wrap around support, in a warm, bright, and contemporary colour palette. Our new website is clean, simple, and fresh. It communicates safety and support to women who are seeking our service, alongside a sense of professionalism, hope, and lightness. You can visit our new website at [www.hobartws.org.au](http://www.hobartws.org.au)

## Mentors in Violence Prevention

Now in its second year, Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) is a leadership program that views all participants as empowered bystanders who can confront, interrupt, or prevent violence.

MVP is important for the whole community as it seeks to enlist all people in helping to end violence in our communities by equipping them with the skills to be effective bystanders.

This year, we delivered 21 workshops and engaged 325 men and women from across Tasmania - all the way from Nubeena to Smithton!

MVP is a collaboration between the Hobart Women's Shelter, Women's Legal Tasmania, Engender Equality, Women's Health Tasmania, and the Tasmanian Community Fund.

## Our Supporters

Our supporters play a critical role at the Hobart Women's Shelter, and we thank all our individual givers, trusts and foundations, schools, organisations, and businesses for your support in 2021/2022. Your generosity supports our service delivery and therapeutic programs and helps fund strategic projects such as building long-term homes. It is with your support that we can create opportunities for women and children to lead independent and fulfilling lives. In addition to those already thanked, we give a special thank you to: Isabelle Sims Foundation, Merridew Foundation, Jetty Foundation, Perpetual Impact Grants, Myer Community Fund, ERA Planning, 2PM Services, The HMAS Hobart, The GP and MD Farrell Foundation, KPMG, Cherry Collectibles, Sullivans Cove Distillery, The Estate of Keith Harris, The Estate of James Simpson Love.



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The Hobart Women's Shelter acknowledges and pays our respect to the traditional owners of lutruwita, the palawalpakana people.

